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5 - 12 Jan 2017
Vol 23 Issue 1

Montecito JOURNAL

The Voice of the Village ~ SINCE 1995 ~

MONTECITO MISCELLANY



Fine print: Beverley Jackson's son-in-law Glenn Horowitz among elite literary file brokers, p. 6

ASHLEIGH BRILLIANT, P.19 • MOVIE GUIDE, P.33 • OPEN HOUSES, P.37

MONTECITO'S REAL ESTATES



A look back at 2016's nearly 200 sales, which saw Oprah Winfrey add to her real estate empire, and more than half the properties change hands under \$3 million, p. 30



Oak Tree Quad

Crane Country Day School unveils new classrooms and Phil von Phul Design & Engineering Center, **p.12**



Big Yellow Revival

Partially vacant for nearly a decade, The Big Yellow House reopens as home to Belden Fine Art & Antiques, **p.37**



Spirited Sounds

UCSB's Opera Theatre hosts competitive convention through January 8 at Fess Parker Resort, **p.26**

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- 5 Ray's Ramblings**
The Journal welcomes Ray Winn's fine print to the fold; his maiden column gets down to business – from Carrier to tax incentives to ObamaCare
- 6 Montecito Miscellany**
Beverly Jackson's son-in-law; Steve Martin and Carrie Fisher; Oprah and Weight Watchers; Donald Trump's inauguration; Gwyneth again; Rescue Mission; SB Symphony; New Year's lunch; Mannheim Steamroller; Opera SB; and Buckingham Palace
- 8 Letters to the Editor**
Keith Frick on fire; Dayna Mcleod praises Madison's tennis prowess; H.T. Bryan on global warming; Ralph Iannelli gets political; Ted Solomon salutes the flag; plus correspondence from Stuart Chapman, Jean Von Wittenburg, Deborah of ZeBird, Ernie Salomon, Diana Thorn, and – of course – Larry Bond
- 10 This Week**
Knit n Needle; poetry club; 10 West; Walk & Roll; prayer retreat; Cynthia Waring; art exhibit at Porch; "Food for Thought"; Cold Spring School Board; MA meeting; book club; Legos; Summerland Yoga; MBAR meeting; Potter Hotel; Sandcastle Music; teen improv workshop; Mindfulness Meditation; Gallery Montecito exhibit; art classes; brain fitness; Story Time; Pilates; Italian conversation; farmers market; and Cars & Coffee
- Tide Guide**
Handy chart to assist readers in determining when to take that walk or run on the beach
- 12 Village Beat**
Crane School opens new buildings; MERRAG update from December meeting; and Belden Fine Art & Antiques in Summerland
- 14 Seen Around Town**
Lynda Millner chronicles Lobero Theatre Associates tea at Four Seasons Biltmore and the 31st annual Parade of Lights
- 18 Spirituality Matters**
Steven Libowitz puts his mind to SB Mantra Lounge Kirtan's new location; Yoga Soup with Eliot Cowan; Cynthia Waring and writing; Wendy Cooper's Intuitive Life; and La Casa de Maria hosts retreat
- 19 Brilliant Thoughts**
In God we trust? Ashleigh Brilliant makes reference to belief, faith, credit, and trust – and how money and religion are tied together.
- 24 Montecito Sportsman**
John Burk gets to know Robert Graham, executive director of SB School of Squash, a nonprofit for youth
- 26 On Entertainment**
Steven Libowitz records the annual National Opera Association's convention; Opera SB earns \$20K grant; on-screen opera; classical music summary; McEuen perform at SOHo; and Ventura improv innovations
- 30 Real Estate**
By the numbers: Mark Hunt breaks down the 2016 Montecito housing market and looks beyond the horizon to 2017 prospects
- 33 Legal Advertising**
- Movie Guide**
- 34 Calendar of Events**
British art exhibit; 1st Thursday at 10 West; Sandcastle Music Together; Dance Fever, Russian style; Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano; Abstract10; Center Stage hosts 12th Night; Kenny Broad presentation; memorial film at Granada; and musician Danny Briere
- 37 Open House Directory**
- 38 Classified Advertising**
Our very own "Craigslist" of classified ads, in which sellers offer everything from summer rentals to estate sales
- 39 Local Business Directory**

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RAY'S RAMBLINGS

by Ray Winn



Hailing originally from Price, Utah, and growing up in Las Vegas, Ray, has been managing his own companies for many years. His extensive résumé includes program manager for Rover-Nerva nuclear rocket program, nuclear weapons testing, co-designing photo sensor imaging systems for Mars Viking Lander-Orbiter cameras, co-inventing bi-polar accelerator for cancer treatment, and semiconductor related patents. He lives in Montecito

Carrier Math

There has been much ado, flailing of arms, accusations, and general silliness about the Carrier deal in Indiana. Being a rather staunch fiscal advocate, I am not generally one to support bailouts for companies with big, or any, incentives. On the other hand, this is such a trivial matter when compared to the failed deals the present administration has made with solar panel tax breaks and investments, electric vehicle tax breaks, wind power nonsense, solar power companies, bank bailouts, automobile bailouts, et cetera.

These have amounted to billions of dollars of taxpayer money – not a few million. It is actually stupefying to watch the little darlings on network and cable television writhe in agony over the Carrier deal. They would be better off reporting on the latest Betty Crocker chocolate chip cookie recipe. It would be far more useful, albeit less entertaining.

Direct and indirect support by federal, state, county, and city governments of businesses and foundations has been going on almost since the birth of the Republic. Alexander Hamilton himself decried such actions. Special “introductions” by government hierarchy, tax breaks, direct grants, et cetera. It has been the way of the world since the Roman Empire. Argue any way you want; the facts are what they are.

Allow me to digress for a moment. Yours truly was lucky enough to have been elected by the state of Nevada as its JAYCEES Outstanding Man of The Year, and nominated as one of 10 in the country. Don’t be impressed: Nevada was a small state then and the pickings were slim, so it’s truly not a big deal. I

RAY'S RAMBLINGS Page 22 ▶



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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito nine years ago.

Horowitz Flies High

Santa Barbara society doyenne **Beverly Jackson's** son-in-law, New York antiquarian **Glenn Horowitz**, is Lord of the Files!

Manhattan-based Glenn, 60, and his wife, screenwriter and film producer **Tracey**, is one of the top brokers of literary archives in America, dealing in works by writers from James Joyce to Vladimir Nabokov to Lenny Bruce and, most recently, **Bob Dylan**.

Glenn, who has stores in East Hampton and Manhattan, just a tiara's toss from MOMA – the Museum of Modern Art – is considered one of the top half-dozen brokers of 20th-century archives in the U.S. and, undoubtedly, the most visible, having acted for the estates of Winston Churchill, Norman Mailer, John Updike, **David Mamet**, Kurt Vonnegut, Woody Guthrie, Joseph Heller, and Nadine Gordimer.

In 2003, Glenn, who was in our rarefied enclave over Christmas en-route to Cancun, Mexico, for vacation with the tony twosome's two daughters, **Taylor** and **Lucy**, negotiated the sale of **Bob Woodward** and **Carl Bernstein's** Watergate papers for \$5 million, which was front-page news across America and one of his biggest deals to date.

But in September 2014, he came up with a proposition that was even bigger, having acquired the rights to sell the archive of folk singer Dylan, an acolyte of Guthrie's, to the George Kaiser Family Foundation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a reported \$20 million, even though Dylan was born in Minnesota, resides down the highway in Malibu and is most commonly associated with New York.

There are 6,000 items currently being

containing the lyrics of *Blood on the Tracks* and the manuscript of *Tarantula*, his only book of fiction.

Glenn, who started his business in 1979 with a \$35,000 loan from his furniture store owner father, made one of his first major deals 12 years later, negotiating the New York Public Library's purchase of *Lolita* author Nabokov's literary estate for more than \$1 million.

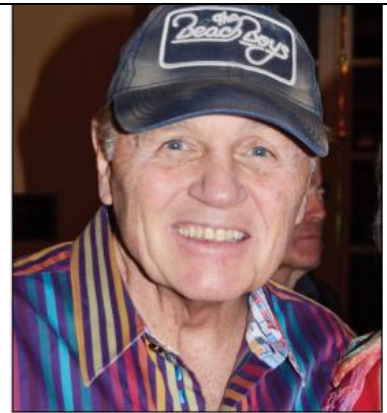
"I couldn't be more proud of him and his work," says Beverley, a successful author herself.

Where the Boys Are

While famed Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli** and singer **Garth Brooks** have avoided the controversy surrounding the forthcoming inauguration of president-elect **Donald Trump** in Washington, D.C., on January 20, the iconic rock group **The Beach Boys** appear to have no such qualms.

An old friend, **Richard Johnson**, writes in his *New York Post* column the surf rockers have yet to decide, while Republican organizers have so far only been able to book the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, which performed at the inaugurations of LBJ, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and both Bushes.

Spokesmen for both Trump and the rockers had no comment, and calls to



Montecito rocker Bruce Johnston keeping mum on Beach Boys performance at presidential inauguration (photo by Priscilla)

band member **Bruce Johnston**, who lives in Montecito, went unanswered.

The group has long been considered bipartisan, performing for **Bill Clinton**, **George H.W. Bush**, and **Ronald Reagan**, who dubbed them "America's band."

Stay tuned.

Notes Worthly

Opera Santa Barbara (OSB) is hitting a high note.

The company has received a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment

MISCELLANY Page 16 ▶

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If you have something you think Montecito should know about, or wish to respond to something you read in the Journal, we want to hear from you. Please send all such correspondence to: Montecito Journal, Letters to the Editor, 1206 Coast Village Circle, Suite D, Montecito, CA. 93108. You can also FAX such mail to: (805) 969-6654, or E-mail to jim@montecitojournal.net

Too Close for Comfort?

Concerning the home on Cold Spring Road that recently suffered a fire, apparently due to a faulty Christmas tree. As the property is located only a few doors away from Montecito Fire Protection District's Station Two, I am wondering if the occupants would be willing to provide any observations regarding their overall experience with living in such close proximity to a fire station?

On a day-to-day basis, does the station produce any deleterious effects on the enjoyment of their property? If so, would they be willing to increase the fire district's response time in order to reduce or eliminate said deleterious effects?

Keith Frick
Montecito

(Editor's note: Good questions, Mr. Frick. We'll try to follow up with some answers over the next few issues. — J.B.)

Mazel Tov for Madison

Nine-year-old Laguna Blanca 4th grader **Madison Mcleod** won the USTA-sanctioned Holiday Junior Open tennis tournament in the 10-and-under age bracket in Woodland Hills recently. Madison is ranked in the top 30 girls in all of Southern California and still has a year and a half before she ages out of this bracket. Which means she could conceivably make the top 10, if not top 5, by that time-line.

Madison was the #1 seed in this tournament, and won the semi-finals in a nail-biting double tiebreaker. Her opponent was over a year older than Mcleod and almost a foot taller and won the first set 6-3. In the 2nd set, Mcleod was focused and determined to keep up with her opponent until the score was 6-6, sending the match into a 7-point tiebreaker, which Mcleod won 7-5. Tied at one set apiece, the match was determined by a 10-point tiebreaker, which Madison won 10-6. The girls played for over two hours in 40 mph winds and 45-degree temperature.

Mcleod advanced to the finals, where she swept the first set 6-1 and finished it off winning the 2nd set 7-5. This was a huge victory for Mcleod and a fantastic way to end the year. Madison, who began playing tennis at age 4, trains at Dimitar Tennis Academy in Santa Barbara five days a week.

When you ask Madison what her dreams are, she says she plans on winning Wimbledon one day. She played



Congratulations are in order for 9-year-old Madison Mcleod, who won — in her age group — the prestigious Holiday Junior Open Tennis Tournament in Woodland Hills on December 18

back-to-back tournaments recently, taking 2nd place in the Terry Lynch Open in Ventura on December 11 and coming in first at the Holiday Junior Open on December 18, so her determination and natural talent may have her well on the way toward accomplishing her dream.

Dayna Mcleod
Montecito

Many Questions, So Few Answers

Over the Earth's claimed 4.5 billion-year-plus existence, there have been many periods of global cooling and warming, occurring billions, millions, and thousands of years prior to man's existence. There have been several Ice Ages relative to man's existence in recent geological times: the "Roman Warm Period" (250 B.C. to 400 A.D.), the "Medieval Warm Period" (950 A.D. to 1250 A.D.), and the "Little Ice Age" (1300 A.D. to 1850 A.D.), followed by our present warm period.

What contribution did human activity and CO2 emissions play, if any? Is it really an established provable "scientific fact" that there will be no more cooling periods or Ice Ages in the future because of the alleged effects of "human activities?" What are the effects of volcanic eruptions, forest and grass fires, plate-tectonic movement, changes and fluctuations of ocean currents, changes in the Earth's orbit speed, orbit adjustments, polar axis adjustments, sun storms, sun cooling and warming cycles, and an aging Earth, as contributions to global warming and/or cooling?

Scientists up to 1882 claimed the existence of an open north polar warm sea; in 1975, scientists proclaimed the Earth was about to enter a period of global freezing and cooling, culminating in a period of extensive glaciation.

ture range versus above normal? It is claimed Earth's temperature range has increased 1.4 Fahrenheit since 1880, and no appreciable increases in 20 years. Who benefits financially and politically from Draconian global warming claims?

H.T. Bryan

Santa Barbara

(Editor's note: Well, the only answer we have for you is to your last question. The United Nations bureaucracy and bureaucracies all over the world will benefit if "scientists" are successful in their bid to put a world-wide "climate change" tax into effect. — J.B.)

A Self-Serving Send-Off

To those who pay attention to these sorts of things, we have all seen politicians of both parties care more about their legacy than doing the right thing. Legacy building at the expense of doing the people's work is bad enough if no one is harmed. It becomes morally and ethically irresponsible when people are killed, because energies are exerted for the purpose of building a false image rather than the protection of millions of innocents. This exercise in self-service will not reflect well on the legacy of our current president.

Those honest participants can have a discussion about the Affordable Care Act and other policies put forth by Mr. Obama through one-sided legislation or executive order. There can't be the same discussion about Mr. Obama's retreat on his own words about the "red line in Syria." Despite a clear and present danger to those Syrians who were in harm's way, Mr. Obama refused to act on his own words. Early in his administration, Mr. Obama said,

injustice or indifferent to suffering," yet for five years, the inaction of Mr. Obama and those members of his administration have led to the slaughter of untold thousands of Syrians and millions of refugees. That is only the beginning of the carnage that will befall the Syrian people.

It is even more ironic that this groundbreaking inaction was perpetrated by the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him on October 9, 2009. He was given the award for his promotion of nuclear nonproliferation and "a new climate in international relations fostered by Obama, especially in reaching out to the Muslim world."

The outgoing president wants his legacy to be one of being a peacemaker. Unfortunately, he will be remembered as one who not only didn't deserve the Nobel Peace Prize but who contributed to a genocide the world has not seen since Rwanda.

Ralph T. Iannelli
Montecito

Nose-Breaking Ceremony

When I was in the military during the Korean conflict, I don't believe I was overly concerned about patriotism in America, but the recent issue of burning our flag and stepping on it by various groups and individuals got me to thinking about it. We know that the U.S. Supreme Court has determined that it's legal to burn the flag in protest, so I am the first to stand shoulder to shoulder with flag burners as they express their views.

I must apologize in advance, how-

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ever, if I express my First Amendment right as I break someone's nose as they burn the flag that I'm saluting.

Ted Solomon
Santa Barbara

Squatty Pottie Praise

When I moved to Carpinteria a year ago, I figured I would be one of just a few persons of conservative political views in the area. Lo and behold, I discovered the *Montecito Journal* and realized that I'm not alone.

What a great little newspaper! My only complaint is that there aren't enough pages. But it's always at the ready right next to my Squatty Pottie. Thanks for making my morning ritual so much more enjoyable.

Stuart Chapman
Carpinteria

(Editor's note: Hmmmm, faint praise indeed, but hey, anything to brighten up a reader's day; just be sure to peruse the ads when you have time. — J.B.)

Love That Dog

Those "Happy Holidays" ads in the last few *Journals* are absolutely adorable.

Love that dog and the smiles he/she brings to my face!

Jean Von Wittenburg
Montecito

ZeBird is the Word



Taking advantage of a little downtime during this year's "Holiday on the Lane" event on Santa Claus Lane is none other than Santa himself

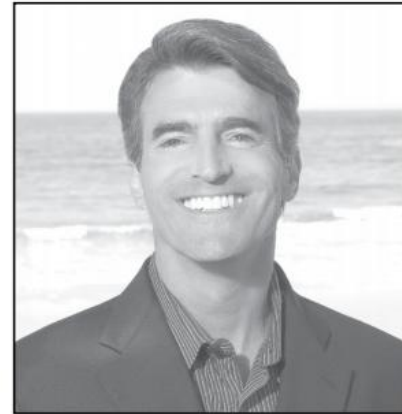
My friend, **Rory Ferguson**, suggested I send these pics out to you. Santa showed up at my shop, ZeBird on Santa Claus Lane, for the "Holiday on the Lane" event recently, and it turned out to have been a lot of fun. Several of the families that came in had been coming for the last five years, and several had new babies over the last year.

I put together a North Pole Mailbox for the kids to write letters to Santa, and they get pretty excited about writing their letters, coloring, and putting stickers on, and addressing to "Santa, North Pole" to drop in the box.

Deborah of ZeBird
Carpinteria

LETTERS Page 32 ▶

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THIS WEEK in and around Montecito



(If you have a Montecito event, or an event that concerns Montecito, please e-mail kelly@montecitojournal.net or call (805) 565-1860)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Knit 'N Needle

Fiber art crafts (knitting, crochet, embroidery, and more) drop-in and meet-up for all ages at Montecito Library.

When: 2 to 3 pm

Where: 1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

Poetry Club

Each month, discuss the life and work of a different poet; bards selected by group consensus and interest. New members welcome. Today's poet: W.S. Merwin.

When: 3:30 to 5 pm

Where: Montecito Library,

1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

Holiday Small Wall at 10 West

More than 90 gift-sized abstracts and contemporary art pieces are on display; tonight is the second reception for the exhibit, which runs through January 23.

When: 5 to 8 pm

Where: 10 West Anapamu Street

Info: director@10westgallery.com

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Walk & Roll

Montecito Union School students, teachers, and parents walk or ride to school, rather than drive.

When: 8 am

Where: Via Vai, Ennisbrook, and Casa

Dorinda trailhead

Info: 969-3249

Art Exhibit at Porch

Ally Vaughn presents her mixed-media art work through January. Tonight is the opening reception.

When: 3 to 5 pm

Where: 3823 Santa Claus Lane

Info: 684-0300

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Cold Spring School Board Meeting

When: 6 pm

Where: 2243 Sycamore Canyon Road

Info: 969-2678

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Montecito Library Book Club

Join for a lively discussion of this month's title. Check the library for current title; new members always welcome. Today's title: *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

When: 1 to 2:30 pm

Where: Montecito Library,

1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

Build with Legos

Drop in and build a fun Lego creation using your imagination. Lego building fosters creativity and is a fun way to build on early literacy skills. All materials are provided and no experience is necessary.

When: 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Where: 1469 East Valley Road

Info: (805) 969-5063

Summerland Evening Yoga

A longtime Summerland tradition, taught by **Bob Andre**. Small Hatha 1 yoga class with brief meditation and breathing work.

When: 5:30 pm

Where: Summerland Church,

2400 Lillie Avenue

Cost: donation

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

MBAR Meeting

Montecito Board of Architectural Review seeks to ensure that new projects are harmonious with the unique physical characteristics and character of Montecito.

When: 1 pm

Where: County Engineering Building,



Montecito Association Meeting

The Montecito Association is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the semi-rural residential character of Montecito. Today the board of directors holds both the annual meeting and the January board assembly.

When: 4 pm

Where: Montecito Hall,

1469 East Valley Road

Planning Commission Hearing Room,
123 E. Anapamu

Knit 'N Needle

Fiber art crafts (knitting, crochet, embroidery, and more) drop-in and meet-up for all ages at Montecito Library.

When: 2 to 3 pm

Where: 1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

History of the Potter Hotel

Lecture presented by **Neal Graffy**; will discuss the history of the Potter Hotel and take questions.

Where: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum,
113 Harbor Way

When: 7 pm, members-only reception at
6:15 pm

Cost: Free (SBMM members),

\$10 (non-members)

Register: (805) 456-8747

ONGOING

Art Exhibit

The Gallery Montecito's current exhibit is a contemporary modern masters show running through January 15. Featured artists include Joan Miró, Robert Motherwell, Wayne Thiebaud, Donald Sultan, and more. Also on display: a painting by one of Britain's finest master realist painters, Jamie Medlin.

Info: 969-1180

MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS

Art Classes

Beginning and advanced, all ages and by appointment – just call.

Where: Portico Gallery,

1235 Coast Village Road

Info: 695-8850

MONDAYS

Connections Brain Fitness Program

Challenging games, puzzles, and memory-enhancement exercises in a friendly environment.

When: 10 am to 2 pm

Where: Friendship Center,

89 Eucalyptus Lane

Cost: \$50, includes lunch

Info: 969-0859

TUESDAYS

Story Time at the Library

A wonderful way to introduce children to the library, and for parents and caregivers to learn about early literacy skills; each week, children ages three to five enjoy stories, songs, puppets, and fun at Story Time.

When: 10:30 to 11 am

Where: Montecito Library,

1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

THURSDAYS

Casual Italian Conversation at Montecito Library

Practice your Italian conversation among a variety of skill levels while learning about Italian culture. Fun for all and informative, too.

When: 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Where: 1469 East Valley Road

Info: 969-5063

FRIDAYS

Farmers Market

When: 8 to 11:15 am

Where: South side of Coast Village Road

SUNDAYS

Cars & Coffee

Motorists and car lovers from as far away as Los Angeles, and as close as East Valley Road, park in the upper village outside Montecito Village Grocery to show off and discuss their prized possessions, automotive trends, and other subjects. Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and Corvettes prevail, but there are plenty of other autos to admire.

When: 8 to 10 am

Where: Every Sunday in the upper village, except the last Sunday of the month, when the show moves to its original home, close to 1187 Coast Village Road.

Info: sbcarscoffee@gmail.com

•/W/

MONTECITO TIDE GUIDE

Day	Low	Hgt	High	Hgt	Low	Hgt	High	Hgt	Low	Hgt
Thurs, Jan 5			3:12 AM	4.4	9:29 AM	2.1	02:51 PM	3.4	09:05 PM	1
Fri, Jan 6			4:07 AM	4.9	10:55 AM	1.5	04:36 PM	3.2	010:07 PM	1.4
Sat, Jan 7			4:58 AM	5.3	12:01 PM	0.6	06:04 PM	3.3	011:09 PM	1.6
Sun, Jan 8			5:47 AM	5.8	12:55 PM	-0.2	07:11 PM	3.6		
Mon, Jan 9	12:06 AM	1.7	6:35 AM	6.3	01:43 PM	-0.9	08:06 PM	3.8		
Tues, Jan 10	12:59 AM	1.7	7:21 AM	6.6	02:28 PM	-1.5	08:55 PM	4.1		
Wed, Jan 11	1:48 AM	1.6	8:06 AM	6.8	03:11 PM	-1.7	09:40 PM	4.2		
Thurs, Jan 12	2:36 AM	1.6	8:50 AM	6.8	03:53 PM	-1.7	010:23 PM	4.3		
Fri, Jan 13	3:23 AM	1.6	9:34 AM	6.5	04:35 PM	-1.5	011:07 PM	4.3		

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For the second consecutive year, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art has been recognized as a "Four Star Charity" by top non-profit evaluator Charity Navigator. Additionally, in 2016, SBMA earned the second highest rating in the country among all art museums.



"We congratulate the Santa Barbara Museum of Art for receiving Charity Navigator's highest ranking for industry standards and performance for the second consecutive year. The Museum is an iconic institution not only because it brings passion to life through great art, but also because its efficiency and transparency will help it remain a staple in the heart of the community for years to come."

—Ron Gallo, President and CEO, Santa Barbara Foundation

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art thanks the Santa Barbara Foundation for more than three decades of support through their granting programs and donor advised funds.

For information about giving opportunities to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, contact Karen Kawaguchi at 805.884.6428 or kkawaguchi@sbma.net.

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VILLAGE DEAR

by Kelly Mahan

Kelly has been Editor at Large for the *Journal* since 2007, reporting on news in Montecito and beyond. She is also a licensed Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Calcagno & Hamilton team. She can be reached at Kelly@montecitojournal.net.



Crane School Opens New Buildings



Members of Crane's student council help cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new classrooms

On Tuesday, January 3, Crane School students, parents, faculty, and key stakeholders took part in a ribbon-cutting on campus to mark the first day of classes in the newly constructed Oak Tree Quad. The ceremony was the culmination of the largest building project in the school's 88-year history. "Literally hundreds of people worked together on the creation of these buildings," said head of school **Joel Weiss**.

Student council members **Catherine Kim, Finnegan Walker, William Deardorff, Jack Hughes, and Arwyn Drew** addressed the entire student body and members of the media, describing the importance of the new buildings and the newly introduced curriculum that will be taught within the new design center. The project includes three buildings (roughly 6,100 sq ft of interior space), and an additional 3,500 sq ft of exterior decking. Two of the buildings will house four new Upper School English and math classrooms (serving grades 6 through 8), administrative offices and bathrooms, and covered outdoor spaces outside of the classrooms.

The third building is the 2,032-square-foot Phil von Phul Design & Engineering Center, named in honor of Phil von Phul, a beloved science and geography teacher who passed away in 2015. Affectionately known as VP, von Phul embraced experiential learning; he taught students geography by having them hand-draw a map of the world, and explained the many laws of physics by having them construct a trebuchet. A life-long tinkerer, VP started an engineering club, a precursor to the building that now bears his name. VP lost his battle to pancreatic cancer at the age of 73. "Phil was a quiet but creative man who had a significant

impact on our school," Weiss said. The new space incorporates a new curriculum focused on engineering, design, and robotics, created in partnership with the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy. The center can be used as a workshop space, or delineated into three separate classroom areas.

Weiss said the project was in the making for more than four years, and was funded through Campaign Crane, a school-wide initiative aimed at raising money to fund new building construction, an enlarged parking lot (finished in 2014), and the school's endowment. Board trustees **Scott Brittingham** and **Patricia MacFarlane**, along with Weiss and director of development, **Debbie Williams**, chaired Campaign Crane. In an unprecedented effort, Weiss and MacFarlane reached out to every parent at the school, inviting them to meet and discuss their family's experiences at Crane. A total of 339 donors gave to the project, which cost \$4.5 million.

The Oak Tree Quad, which is centered around a historic oak tree, is in alignment with the existing architecture of the 88-year-old school, including similar-styled Magnolia and Olive Quads, which are set farther back on the 11-acre parcel. The project, which includes an amphitheater space that can hold more than 250 students for daily assemblies, is part of a larger Master Plan update, which includes future demolition of two of the school's older buildings to make way for an expanded Cate Hall. The Master Plan update also included a new kindergarten, which opened in 2011, and a new parking lot and entrance schematic, which were completed in 2014. The Oak Tree Quad construction broke ground on February 22, 2016, and work was completed in 10 months.



The Design & Engineering Center was purposefully constructed with open ceilings showing beam support and plumbing to serve as a lesson in engineering (photo by Teresa Pietsch)

As we reported in October of last year, the curriculum for the Design Center will come from an unprecedented private-public school collaboration with the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy (DPEA). Crane's design center was inspired by architectural renderings designed by MKThink, the pre-eminent architectural firm behind more than 20 educational institutions including Stanford's illustrious d.school. Weiss thanked local architects from Blackbird Architects, **Alayna Fraser** and **Ken Radtkey**, who were instrumental in keeping with the style of the Crane campus.

Other notable building partners were also recognized at the ribbon-cutting, including **Steve Pivato** of Frank Schipper Construction, and project supervisor **Cameron Carey**. Weiss noted the challenges of constructing such a large project during school

hours, and praised Frank Schipper Construction for their organization and professionalism.

The ribbon-cutting included the singing of two songs by Crane students to "christen" the new amphitheater and classrooms before the regular school assembly began. "The learning that will happen in these new buildings fits seamlessly with Crane's core mission," Weiss said.

For more information about Crane, visit www.craneschool.org.

MERRAG News

MERRAG (Montecito Emergency Response and Recovery Action Group) held their annual meeting on December 8 at the Four Seasons Biltmore to install officers for 2017

VILLAGE BEAT Page 37 ▶

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Stay Updated: For more information on these topics and our 2016 end-of-year update, please visit our website.

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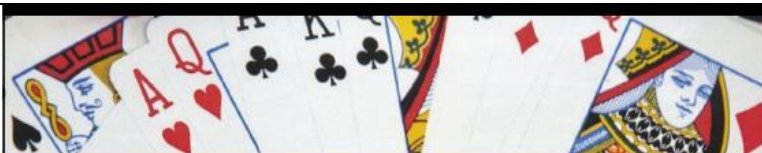


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— by Lynda Millner

Lobero Tea



Lobero Tea
co-chairs
Mindy Denson
and Emily
Johnson

Every holiday season, I look forward to the old-fashioned tea given by the Lobero Theatre Associates at the Four Seasons Biltmore with a bit of sparkling wine thrown in. The lobster finger sandwiches were *de rigueur*, but the only thing missing were hats and gloves. Is anyone old enough to remember those? Fredrik Rosvall was at the piano. He has become a tradition, too.

It's always fun to see the giant stack of toys that all the members bring, which is given to CALM to distribute for the holidays. New director of development Brandon Mowery spoke to the group saying, "We are grateful for all that you do. I know you began in 1972 and since then have helped with many improvements, like a grand piano and especially the outdoor courtyard. Now you're helping with the "Raise the Roof" project. We're having roof problems." All the funds raised by the group goes to the theater.



Ms Millner is the author of *The Magic Makeover*, *Tricks for Looking Thinner*, *Younger and More Confident – Instantly*. If you have an event that belongs in this column, you are invited to call Lynda at 969-6164.

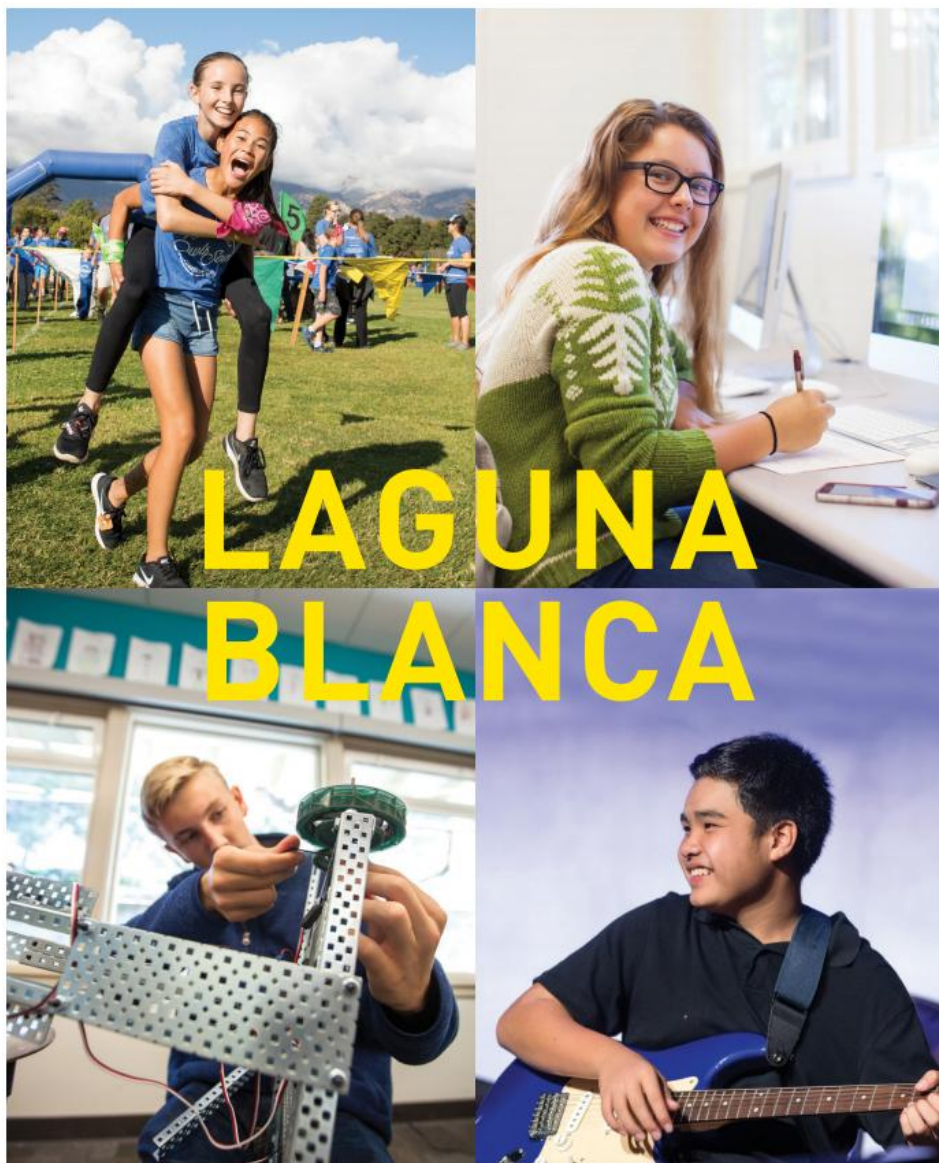
Co-chairs were Emily Johnson and Mindy Denson. Some of those helping me eat sandwiches were new member Helen Buckley, Karen Byers, Paige Beard, Joan Crossland, Emily Dempster, Sylvia Easton, Angie Ferraro, Leslie Haight, Rhea Hayes, Maribel Jarchow, Hope Kelly, Lily Marx, Margaret Slater, Susan Tarlow, Annie Williams, and Lobero Theatre board president Amy MacLeod.

To highlight what a busy place the Lobero Theatre is, last year it was in use 195 days or nights with 45 of that number being for the Santa Barbara

SEEN Page 29 ▶



Director of development Brandon Mowery, Lobero auxiliary president Janet McCann with toy for CALM, Leslie Height, and Lily Marx



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associated with its new production of Leos Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, which will be presented at the Granada in March.

One of three Santa Barbara-area organizations to receive NEA support during the current grant-making cycle, OSB has received agency funding in the past, including grants in support of its 2015 production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the 2012 production *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

"This is a tremendous vote of confidence and a welcome validation of our artistic vision in relation to pre-

es," says OSB general director **Steven Sharpe**.

Full Force

Montecito comedian **Steve Martin** found himself embroiled in controversy when he made a Twitter tribute to the late *Star Wars* actress **Carrie Fisher**, which critics labeled as "sexist."

Fisher's death at the age of 60 took her family, fans, and friends by surprise and Steve, 71, was one of many celebrities who voiced their shock and sadness at her demise.

Fisher was the most beautiful creature I had ever seen," he wrote on Twitter. "She turned out to be witty and bright as well."

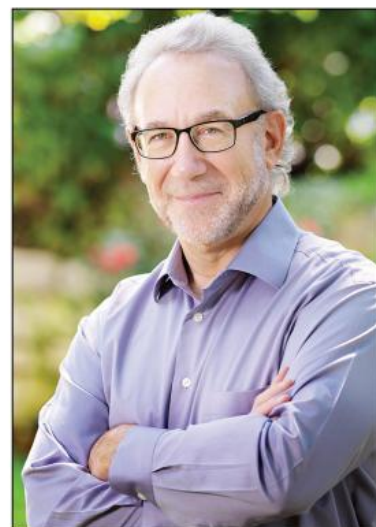
But members of the Twitter-verse criticized Steve's post, saying his attention first to her physical appearance before her personality wasn't the right way to remember the Hollywood princess.

My former employer *New York Magazine's* The Cut blog also wrote a post about Steve's since-deleted tweet, saying the focus on Fisher's beauty was "something she spoke out

"Remember Fisher for her immense talent, her outspoken feminism, and her moving commentary on mental health – not the way she looked on screen," it blasts.

Oh, dear.

Three of a Kind



Bob Bernhardt takes charge (photo by Brad Cansler)

Santa Barbara Symphony welcomed in the New Year in colorful style with dazzling acrobatic performances from Cirque de la Symphonie, the toned tony triumvirate of **Sarah Sporich**, **Armando Munoz**, and **Marco Balestracci**.

The thoroughly entertaining two-hour concert at the sold-out Granada, conducted by five year veteran **Bob Bernhardt** – who is celebrating his 18th season as principal pops maestro of the Louisville Orchestra – opened and closed with works by Oscar-winning composer **John Williams**, with Mozart, Debussy, Handel, Gershwin, Strauss, and Tchaikovsky, impeccably sandwiched in between, wrapping, appropriately enough, with "Auld Lang Syne".

Former Music Academy of the West board member **Robert Weinman** was an energized guest conductor with Sousa's rousing march *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

A glorious musical repast to herald 2017!

Mission: Possible

The festive spirit was palpable when the Rescue Mission hosted its annual Christmas-New Year Feast, an event I have volunteered at for a decade.

The 300 guests were welcomed with plates heaped high with Yuletide fare prepared by new kitchen manager **Wesley Jones** and his colleagues with 70 turkeys, innumerable hams, and more than 100 pounds of mash potatoes.



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by Steven Libowitz

"Spirituality Matters" highlights two or three Santa Barbara area spiritual gatherings. Unusual themes and events with that something extra, especially newer ones looking for a boost in attendance, receive special attention. For consideration for inclusion in this column, email slibowitz@yahoo.com.

Montecito No More

Santa Barbara Mantra Lounge Kirtan begins the new year with a new venue out of the village, moving from the Montecito Library to the chapel at Unity of Santa Barbara. The first Evening of Melodious Kirtan & Vegan Fare at its new digs at 227 E. Arrellaga Street takes place this Saturday, January 7, at 7 pm, when all are invited to bridge the gap between the material and spiritual through meditative song. Meditating on mantras is the sonic form of the divine and facilitates our meditation. Attraction to music is imbedded deep within the psyche, as sound is considered particularly absorbing as a sense. The mind is naturally allured to the designated mantra embedded in musical sounds, while the melodies, or rāgas, accompanying kirtan are composed to stir devotional feelings.

The Mantra Lounge organiz-

ers - Divya & Sarvatma - provide the ambiance, music, lyrics, chanting prompts, plus delicious vegan food to enjoy following the chanting. Dress comfortably and bring a favorite cushion if you don't want to sit on the chairs. \$7 admission at the door. Get more info at the Mantra Lounge's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MantraLoungeKirtanSantaBarbara, or RSVP on the Meetup site, www.meetup.com/Santa-Barbara-Mantra-Lounge-Kirtan/events/236363660/?rv=ea1.

RSVP is appreciated to help determine the quantity of refreshments to prepare.

Happy Planting

Yoga Soup leaps back into healing arts events right off the bat in 2017 via hosting Plant Spirit Medicine: a talk with **Eliot Cowan**, the author of

tiated *Tsaurirrikame* (elder medicine man) in the Huichol Indian tradition. Cowan will share stories of the healing wisdom of plants, while participants will learn a simple yet profound way to walk through the plant spirit medicine doorway and begin to discover the sacred world that is your home. Whatever your interest from healing to spiritual seeker or simply a nature lover, plant spirit medicine can provide a doorway to the living wisdom of the natural world, says Cowan, who is the founder of Blue Deer Center, the College of Plant Spirit Medicine, and retreat center located in the Catskill Mountains of New York. The 7 to 9 pm talk on Friday, January 6, costs \$25. Visit www.yogasoup.com to register, or check out www.bluedeer.org, www.facebook.com/bluedeercenter/?fref=nf or www.soundcloud.com/michaelstoneconversations/eliot-cowan-plant-spirit-medicone.

Waring and Writing

Cynthia Waring is the once-again Santa Barbara-based author, teacher, massage therapist, and performance artist who recently revived her moving and transformational one-woman show *Bodied Unlimited* at several venues in town, including the Center Stage Theater and Yoga Soup. This weekend, she is exhibiting her intention to pass it on by sharing the process of telling a specific story of an emotional journey. The Power and Healing of Writing Your Memoir workshop will discuss how writing can be not only a spiritual practice but often a healing process. Participants will get a chance to share and get started on their own memoirs, using the guidance offered by the instructor in this one-hour workshop from 3 to 4 pm Saturday, January 7, at the Santa Barbara Central Library, 40 East Anapamu Street. Admission is free. Visit www.SBPLibrary.org for details, or find out more about Waring online at www.bodiesunbound.com.

Intuition in the Valley

The first get-together of **Wendy Cooper's** The Intuitive Life in the SYV Meetup takes place 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, January 7, at her office in Los Olivos. The event is geared to help participants identify your own way of receiving intuitive information as Cooper leads you in intuition developing exercises. She will discuss how to connect with the spirit world for guidance and assistance, the spiritual importance of release and being in the flow, tools from nature that you can use to raise your energy frequency, how energy

tools for clearing and healing your energy and spirit body to help you stop feeling energetically drained. The cost is \$30. Get more information and RSVP at www.meetup.com/The-Intuitive-Life-in-the-SYV/events/236349283.

Halftime at La Casa

While football fanatics eagerly anticipate the playoffs and forthcoming Super Bowl, the reverend **Suzanne Dunn**, reverend **Jeannette Love** and **Annette Colbert** are focusing further inward as they share leadership of the year's first monthly retreat for Centering Prayer practice at La Casa de Maria. The half-day program consists of three half-hour seated meditations interspersed with walking meditation and quiet time for journaling, reading, or just walking the beautiful grounds of the center in the Montecito foothills just below the San Ysidro Ranch. Beginners are always welcome at the half-day retreat that takes place from 9:30 am to 1 pm every first Saturday of the month. By donation.

Next week brings 2017's first Mindfulness Practice Retreat, which is also a half-day journey, specifically to create a refuge for calming the mind, opening the heart, and finding peace with ourselves and others through gently guided meditations. All levels are welcome in this monthly offering 2:30 to 6 pm on Sunday, January 15, led by **Radhule Weininger, M.D., Ph.D.**, who practices psychotherapy in Santa Barbara and has studied mindfulness meditation since 1981. By donation.

Just a little further down the road, **Perie Longo** leads the year's first Wednesday Retreat Day - Bless the Old to Welcome the New: Writing in a New Year - on January 18. Embracing the transition from 2016-17, Longo takes note that the end always paves the way to beginning something else. Through examples of poetry and prose to inspire our own writing, participants will honor what has passed to fortify, bless, and prepare for the coming year. Sharing is an integral part of the workshop, as listening to others helps us listen to ourselves, says Longo, PhD, MFT, and registered poetry therapist who has facilitated writing workshops for more than two decades. She is also poetry chair of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and a former poet laureate of Santa Barbara. No writing experience is necessary to attend the 9:30 am to 3:30 pm retreat, which is by donation, with an optional \$14 fee for lunch.

More details on all these events plus La Casa's full schedule are available online at www.lacasademaria.org. •M/

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BRILLIANT THOUGHTS

by Ashleigh Brilliant

Born London, 1933. Mother Canadian. Father a British civil servant. World War II childhood spent mostly in Toronto and Washington, D.C. Berkeley PhD. in American History, 1964. Living in Santa Barbara with wife Dorothy since 1973. No children. Best-known for his illustrated epigrams, called "Pot-Shots", now a series of 10,000. Email ashleigh@west.net or visit www.ashleighbrilliant.com



God and Money

Here are four words which all have more or less the same meaning, but are used in many different ways: belief, faith, credit, and trust. Interestingly, two of their chief usages are connected with religion and with finance. Both religious and financial institutions basically depend on the belief, faith, credit, and trust we have in them.

We all know the joke: "In God We Trust - All Others Pay Cash." What isn't so well-known is where that original motto came from. You might guess the Bible, or some equally archaic source. But in fact, its whole known history is relatively recent. It has actually been on our paper money only since 1957, and that was only one year after it became our nation's official motto. But who originally wrote it? Surprise! As far as we know, it was first put into print by a lawyer, who also happened to be an amateur poet.

Lawyers in general are notoriously bad poets, probably because they're trained to use language in a precise and non-poetic way. One particular lawyer, John C. Calhoun, who became a famous pre-Civil War legislator, is said to have tried to write a love-poem, but he could never get farther than "Whereas..."

And indeed, all the poems of the lawyer-poet to whom we ascribe the motto have been (no doubt deservedly) forgotten - with one exception - a 32-line piece in which the expression we are discussing occurred - but only in the 29th line. And, to make matters even more bizarre, the motto as we have it today is not exactly what he wrote.

By now, you may have guessed that the author in question was Francis Scott Key, and his celebrated composition, of 1814, was "The Star Spangled Banner", which ultimately, but not until 1931, became our official National Anthem - although Mr. Key can't take any credit for the music (which is another story). His poem had four stanzas, of which only the first is generally known and sung today. But only in the sixth line of the last stanza do we find these words: "And this be our motto: 'In God Is Our Trust.'"

However, it was not until 1863, during the Civil War, that the motto first appeared on our coins - and then only after a small but important change was made in the wording. That change we can attribute to Salmon P. Chase, who was Lincoln's treasury secretary.

In a letter to the Philadelphia Mint director specifying the design of the new coinage, Chase first wrote "In God Is Our Trust" but then scratched out "is our" and substituted "we," making it the motto we know so well today: "IN GOD WE TRUST." (If you're curious about how we know all this, you can bless the National Archives.)

Being myself a professional writer specializing in short expressions, I much admire the improvement Mr. Chase achieved by condensing the original five words to four. He thereby changed "Trust" from a noun to a verb, gave the whole expression much greater impact, and of course also, in shortening it by three letters and one space, made it easier to print in small areas. In my opinion, Salmon P. Chase

*There's nothing tangible
standing behind the currency
we have in circulation*

deserves to be recognized as co-author of this famous motto - or at least as Key's masterful editor.

But let's not forget about belief, faith, and credit. Whether or not you believe in God, we had all better believe in the dollar, because it's only our belief that gives it any value. The dollar used to be backed by a stipulated amount of gold or silver. But today, by law, there's nothing tangible at all standing behind all the currency we have in circulation. There are only these words (for what they are worth): "the full faith and credit of the United States Government."

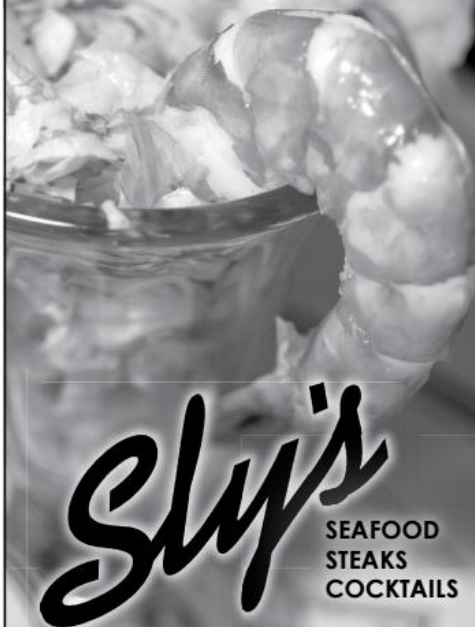
Today, we're generally more familiar with "credit" in connection with credit cards, but remember, the word basically means "belief" and is related to words such as "creed," "accreditation," and "credible."

As for faith, it is well-known among Christians to have the power to move mountains. (Matthew 17:20). Muslims, however, see it differently. In Islamic legend, the Prophet is asked to prove his power by making a certain mountain come to him. Instead, he goes to the mountain, thereby proving his faith in submission to God.

My own version of the whole idea is expressed in the title of one of my books: *I'M JUST MOVING CLOUDS TODAY - TOMORROW I'LL TRY MOUNTAINS.*

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SHARES



The outstanding SBRM hosting Christmas kitchen staff include Jose Manzo, breakfast cook; George Machado, dinner cook; Wesley Jones, kitchen supervisor; Chris Wood, pot washer; Kyle Newton, dinner cook; Joseph Smith, bread preparer; Seth Barber, breakfast cook greeted by Rolf Geyling, and Rebecca Wilson (photo by Priscilla)



SBRM serving volunteers Aliene Campbell, Kathi Newell, Jodi Fishman, Jared, Alexa Osti, Cory Kaufman, Nakry Kaufman, Jenny Schlax, Neil Levinson family, Diana Lytel, Kipley Lytel, Valerie Bishop, John White, Lauren Cook, Lisa Cook, Russell Cook, Robin Sonner, Kate McHugh, Rick Omstead family, and Richard Mineards welcomed by Rolf Geyling, SBRM president; Rebecca Weber, director of Communications; and Trinity Swartz, SBRM rep (photo by Priscilla)



The traditional "gingerbread home" decorating each table (photo by Priscilla)

"It's important people feel cared for during these sort of holidays," says mission president **Rolf Geyling**, whose annual budget is \$2.5 million, helping more than 2,000 people annually.

Joining me in the festive fun was my trusty snapper **Priscilla** and *Sopranos* actor **Michael Imperioli** and his wife, **Victoria**.

Afterward, diners were able to pick up presents in the outside courtyard, including shoes, underwear, and toiletries.



Richard Mineards, Cat Pollon, and co-host Gerald Incandela

Robert Carty, Cat Pollon, Tab Hunter, and Chapin Nolen



Lunch Bunch

As usual, tout le monde was at the New Year's Day lunch thrown by affable gardening guru **George Schoellkopf** and international artist **Gerald Incandela** at their stunning Summerland aerie.

The dynamic duo, who fly between their estates here and Washington, Connecticut, kicked off 2017 in splendiferous style with free-flowing Bordeaux and Moet champagne, beef brisket that took three days to prepare in the baronial kitchen, and traditional English trifle, tiramisu, and persimmon pudding.

It was quite the turnout with **Leslie Ridley-Tree**, **Cat Pollon**, **Robyn Geddes**, **Larry Feinberg** and **Starr Siegle**. **Trish Reynales**, **Gretchen Lieff**, **Degen Perner**, **Mary Dorra**, **Gwen Stauffer**, **Barbara Woods**, **Ceil Pulitzer**, **Tab Hunter** and **Allan**



Co-host George Schoellkopf, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Gerald Incandela, and Gretchen Lieff

Glaser, **Judy Little**, **Chapin** and **Cynthia Nolen**, **Marie Carty**, and **Tim Street-Porter**.

Always a cracking start to the New Year.

MISCELLANY Page 36 ▶



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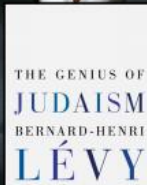
Bernard-Henri Lévy

The Genius of Judaism

Sat, Jan 14 / 8 PM / UCSB Campbell Hall
"Bernard-Henri Lévy, perhaps the most prominent intellectual in France today, [speaks] truth to power." *The Boston Globe*

Lévy puts an obligation to the other, to the dispossessed and to the forgotten at the heart of the matter, arguing that the spirit of Judaism must continue to inform our moral thinking and courage today.

Co-presented with the Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Foundation Endowed Symposia in Jewish Studies in cooperation with the UCSB Department of Religious Studies, Congregation B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Federation of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Hillel



Co-presented with The Granada Theatre

30th Anniversary Tour

The Peking Acrobats

Sun, Jan 15 / 3 PM / Granada Theatre
\$45 / \$25 UCSB students (with valid ID) and children (12 & under)

A Granada facility fee will be added to each ticket price

"Nearly everything The Peking Acrobats did was amazing – and stunning, and breathtaking and WOW!" *The Seattle Times*

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Tickets start at \$35
\$19 UCSB students

A Granada facility fee will be added to each ticket price

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– Mark Swed, *Los Angeles Times*

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San Francisco Chronicle



Itzhak Perlman

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SHARES

enough to be unwillingly pressed into giving brouhaha speeches to more young entrepreneur-bent audiences than I care to think about. But when duty calls... so they say. As a pure defense mechanism, it was clear that settling on a single subject, well-oiled and rehearsed, so that it could be delivered even if I was also "well-oiled," was the answer.

The title of the presentation was Economics, *Point 101*. Not Economics 101, but 0.101. Suggesting that it was perhaps at least one or two steps below 101. The sometimes-meandering presentation centered on the fact that governments of all stripes operate in a very un-business-like way. And it was my mission to point out, rather clumsily, some of the pains the bright-eyed audience was about to suffer when they stepped up to their necks into an uncertain start of their own business enterprises. Or as my friend-mathematician-comic Tom Lehrer commented, "...starting that long, slow, slide down the razor blade of life." After all, this *was* the United States Junior Chambers of Commerce. The lesson ran something like this:

Tax Incentives

In one of my former business adventures, about \$35,000 was required to create a new job. So, for every \$35,000 that we *didn't* pay in taxes, we created a new job that paid about \$65,000 a year. Approximately half of the new employees came from the ranks of the unemployed, usually on unemployment; and about half from the existing work force and new graduates. Let's say the government(s) decided to be nice and forgo \$35,000 in taxes... I know, it's a real stretch, but follow the rabbit trail for a while. The new employee now starts paying federal taxes at about \$13,650 per year, and about \$2,100 in state taxes. Additionally, the employee now spends a lot more money on "stuff," generating more income for the government(s)... read sales tax, gasoline

have that as our gift.

So, in year one, government(s) receive a return on investment of about 45%. Not bad, huh? And they get it year after year after year.

If the new employee were receiving unemployment benefits prior to coming to work for us, which the state no longer must pay, the return goes to about 96% in year one! If you add in food stamps, housing allowances and the like, it is even much higher. Taking the above model using an average, the total return to government(s) for year one is about 70% on net investment. In 15 months, they have *all* their money back, and from then on, governments

The Feds get a return of infinity, as they didn't put up a single dime

have an ongoing income of about \$16,000 per year. All from an investment of \$35,000. Now, how would you like to have a business with returns like that? You would, of course, say, "Sign me up!"

This scenario highlights one of the pernicious evils that a government foists on job-producing... hence tax-producing entities. They have a propensity for killing the goose so it can't lay any more eggs. It's as if they are on a fool's errand sent by a roomful of blithering idiots. I know, this case is simplified – that's why it's called Point 101, but I think you get the message.

If corporations were relieved of all income taxes and rid of the onerous regulations, there would probably never be an unemployed person in the United States who was willing to work, and the tax base would swell beyond our wildest dreams. The trouble is, it would dramatically reduce the size of government and would also dispense with the legions of non-productive government "workers," many of whom produce nothing of any real value or economic consequence. And the rulers in Washington and state capitols would be seen mostly irrelevant.

some plastics and solvents in our business, so we were constantly harangued by the EPA and State watchdogs. Each had their conflicting rules and standards, frequently 180 degrees in opposition to each other, often with stiff fines for non-compliance. If you adhered to one, you were in violation of the other. Catch-22 personified.

It got so bad that I had to hire a \$50,000-a-year person to determine which regulation and fine was cheaper to violate: the Feds or the state. Our fines and permits finally rose to more than \$235,000 per year... a full 20% of our gross company profits. This left a much smaller amount

for business development, advertising, capital equipment investment, employee training, repairs, and all the other things needed to run a successful business.

In the end, most senior managers took smaller and smaller salaries to keep the company viable. Finally, in desperation, I threw up my hands, surrendered to the zombies, and negotiated the sale of the entire company to a Fortune 500 entity on the East Coast. They were enticed by the state government with tax breaks, reimbursement for the move and so on. Boom... 250 Californians and their families were back on the unemployment rolls.

Ultimately, the same obstructionist behavior in upstate New York, caused mostly by the Feds, started plaguing them. They ultimately threw in the towel and shipped the whole factory off to Korea. The factory eventually became a publicly traded Korean company with sales of \$100,000,000+ a year with good profits, low tax rates, happy employees, and a government that mostly stays out of their way. A full 80% of the products made there are sold in the good ol' USA, with virtually no import duty.

Back to Carrier

This has been a long-winded way to get back to Carrier and the state of Indiana. But it illustrates what happens when an egregious and poorly

policy and over-burdensome regulations inserts itself into matters commercial. Most of these enforcers could not make a profit from a hot dog pushcart on a sunny Fourth of July in Central Park without a government handout!

In the case of Carrier, the state offered to give the company \$7,000,000 in benefits over a 10-year period for about 1,000 employees, with the proviso that the factory stayed at the same or higher employee level. Okay, get picky and argue whether it is 850 or 1,000. That's in the minutiae. Third-grade math tells you that the state is giving up roughly \$700 per year per employee in tax burden. In return, the state gets about \$1,800 per year per employee in income tax, and the federal government gets about \$15,250 in taxes.

Let me see... for the state it is 260% per year return on investment for the next 10 years, and infinity beyond that. The feds get a return of infinity to start with, as they didn't put up a single dime. Additionally, the state *doesn't* have to pay unemployment benefits to 1,000 people at a cost of some \$18,000,000 per year (\$18,000 per year per employee), because after all, there are simply no jobs to be had in that market and if these people lost their jobs, there would be no taxes collected by either the feds or the state.

The cost of unemployment payments for the first year is 250% of the total incentive for the entire 10-year period. Hello? Does anyone out there have an abacus? Add in the cost of food stamps, possible housing allowances and the loss of real estate taxes for abandoned or foreclosed houses, loss of sales tax, and the return on investment becomes nothing short of amazing. Deal me in. Additionally, Carrier has agreed in writing to invest another \$16,000,000 in the plant. Their sales and profit will most likely boom, when considering the massive reduction in corporate income tax and reduced regulations planned.

One can't ignore the human factors and the familial misery that would have been caused by the Christmas-time loss to these families. I have personally lived a life much like that as a child, and it is not fun.

The Carrier deal is a *minuscule* bailout compared to Obama's Solyndra loss of more than \$535,000,000 in Federal grants and loan guarantees... *all* lost and *all* taxpayer money. In addition, the investors, egged on by Obama administration officials, lost an additional \$600,000,000. That, in total, is 161 times the amount being granted to Carrier. The Carrier deal is mice nuts (my grandmother's words) by comparison.

The new administration's job is to provide the nation with the proper governmental foundation that fosters

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growth, proffers a fair tax policy, limits regulations, fosters job creation, imbues mutual respect, and preaches fairness. That will be the fire in the furnace that gets the engine of industry going again and re-centers the nation on a shared future.

The federal register has grown by more than one million pages in the last few years. ObamaCare is some 22,000 pages that Congress never read, before passing it with a wink and a nod; nor have any representatives or senators read the additional 10,000 pages of how to administer it. Remember Nancy Pelosi's admonition to pass it, so we can later see what it says.

Facing an Uncertain Future

The ObamaCare administrators have wisely determined that there are now more than 1,568 ways to get sick. In the last year alone, there have been about 100,000 pages of new regulations in the federal register, mostly aimed at controlling the lives of individuals and the fortunes of corporations. We now have hundreds of thousands of pages of new regulations giving roving gangs of robotic government bureaucrats complete control over the lives of ordinary citizens. It's time to tear most of it up and commit it to the dustbin of a bad time in the

history of the Republic. Last week, the Obama administration produced another 875 pages of new regulations in one day, which is about the average day. They are "pouring concrete" in all the toilets as they go out the door, in an attempt to make cleaning up the mess even more difficult.

If the new administration needs dynamite, I suggest they use it. There will be a lot of messes to clean up, but the Republic has withstood worse, and it will endure this malevolent behavior as well.

We, as Americans, face a future that is in many ways uncertain. Never has there been such a mountain of personal, commercial, and government debt as far as the eye can see. Undoubtedly, the debt will continue to rise. Hopefully we have not yet reached the tipping point. If we can get back to 3 to 4% GDP, it still won't make much, if any, of the debt go away but will hopefully stem the tide of it rising further until we can figure out how to put out the raging fires. Never in the history of the world has there been so much governmental control over a constitutional republic. Let's hope it does not lead to our undoing.

Time will tell if this is a new upward turning point for our blessed Republic, or just more of the same from a broken, dysfunctional government. ❧

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SHARES

by John Burk

The Makings of an Executive Director

He stands at an athletic 6 feet tall and speaks with an Essex English accent in a frank and well-judged manner; he is a world-class squash pro, having reached a world ranking of #30 at age 22.

Now 48, **Robert Graham**, is executive director of a local youth nonprofit aptly named, Santa Barbara School of Squash (SBSOS). But, you would be wrong if you thought he was in charge of an elite squash school, even though there are elements. The "school" seeks to help kids who qualify for the federal lunch program, succeed in life – through (emphasis intended) the sport of squash. Coaching and athletic discipline are certainly components of the program, but mentorship, academic help, and individual attention leading to college are as well.

The story of how director Graham came to our town and eventually came to run the SBSOS program is a fascinating one. I met Robert and we talked and the following is what I discovered.

In England during the 1970s and 80s, interest in the racket sport called squash became rampant, like a fad. Small clubs sprang-up everywhere, and Robert's dad joined one. Every Sunday his dad took him to the club and, along with friends, would teach him. At age 6, Robert played squash for the first time with his dad. At age 11, he beat his dad, a mid-level player, and never lost a game to him after that. (His dad still jokes about that.)

During this time, his mom, dad and older sister (who became a highly ranked junior player herself) supplied the perfect amount of encouragement without becoming overbearing, something of which he looks back with appreciation today. Soon by age 9, Robert was winning tournaments. Amazingly, he became #1 in the world for ages under 12, and two years later #1 for those under 14 and then under 16.

During this time, school was still central to Robert's life. He must have been bright, because in early elemen-



Marshall Graham with dad Robert Graham, following in his athletic footsteps with a racket in hand



Dr. John Burk is a retired Santa Barbara dentist and a longtime Montecito resident

tary school he was bumped up a year, then again at middle school age, fast-tracked toward college in high school and then had to decide at age 15 what to major at a university, the next step. As a pre-teen and teen, he had a different social life than his peers; his life consisted of three things: school, homework, and squash.

At age 16, he was accepted into Nottingham University and decided to major in mechanical engineering as did his father but, when he met the dean, he was told to return when he was 17; it became an important "fork in the road" for Robert. Since he was doing so well in squash, he decided with his family, to go full-time into the sport. He went on to become ranked #6 at the Jr. World Championship in 1986 in Brisbane at age 18, with a senior world ranking of #100. As before and over the next 4 years, he played about 20 squash tournaments a year traveling to places



Robert Graham, a 10-year-old Englishman when he was first ranked #1 in the world for his age in squash

such as France, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Italy, Hong Kong, Egypt, New Zealand, and the U.S.

Robert reflected about this exciting time of his life and said, "It was an amazing experience in so many ways. I leaned to cope with the challenges of traveling to strange places, sometimes alone, competing with so many different people; the ups and downs of losing and winning, the camaraderie of teammates, dealing with injuries, coping with a crazy Aussie coach whose philosophy was to train us so hard that no one would be able to keep up with us on the court. It bordered on the abusive side of exertion, training six hours a day. So it was always 'Be fit enough, be fast enough, strong enough and mentally tough enough' – and you will win. A sound philosophy and it worked, but it took its toll."

Robert suffered a bad leg injury at age 22 shortly after he had achieved his top ranking of #30 in the world. It was at this time that he was competing and training with squash legends including Pakistani Jahangir Khan, who played 555 straight matches undefeated for more than 5 years, still an all-sports world record. After the injury period, he never fully recovered to the level he was, so suffering physically, mentally, and financially he decided coaching was his next step. He continued to play tournaments but



Robert Graham in a squash match at age 16 when he was still ranked #1 in the world for his age representing England

also came to the USA (where he was ranked #1 and #2 for two years) for a coaching position.

He coached the U.S. men's team for two years, taking them to the Pan Am Games and then, through a friend who was vacating his position, was hired by Santa Barbara Athletic Club to be club pro and instructor. In 2006, he became part-time squash coach for Santa Barbara School of Squash, which was started by local squash star and Cate School administrator, **Terry Eagle**, among others. After various volunteer roles over the years, in 2014 Robert stepped up to become full-time SBSOS executive director after serving on the founding board.

I asked Robert about his role as director of Santa Barbara School of Squash and other questions:

"My management style tends to be friendly and team-like, in that I gather the input of others to achieve a consensus, but at times, I am finding, I must be more authoritative. I have good people around me and they know me, and so I don't need to ask twice. Frankly, from playing squash and coaching, some simple mottos have arisen for me: Live for the here and now, appreciate your family and friends, travel at every opportunity, and if you want something to be done properly, do it yourself. Oh, and use humor instead of smashing your racket when angry, I still use humor a lot

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Robert Graham with S.B. School of Squash students on the courts at the SB Athletic Club, which donates court time to the program

around the kids." One can see how such mottos evolved from Robert's life experiences.

I asked about his challenges as director. "My biggest challenge with SBSOS is raising money, thinking about raising money and planning for raising money. (Did I ask you for money yet?) We still operate on a shoestring and things are tight, but we have accomplished some amazing things over the last 10 years, one being that all our graduates have gone on to college being the first in their family."

How does Graham measure results? "The results for each kid in SBSOS will vary according to what they bring to start and their own potential," he said. "We work to maximize that by mentoring them, teaching, and coaching them, having them work hard to become proficient in squash and school, having manners, producing a ready handshake, exposing them to community and business leaders and, of course, traveling usually to squash tournaments – some across the country. It is a great learning experience for them and they must put out the effort but, spending quality time with them is a delight for me."

I asked Graham how, aside from what the staff does, he mentors the kids. "Sometimes I may overdo it, but I find that there are so many moments with the kids that can be turned into a learning situation, something I can point out to the kids. I often come to find how the kids will repeat or mirror how the staff and I behave (good behavior, of course) and that is gratifying, but it is hard to measure on a chart or graph. As the kids get more involved with us, we know we are having an effect and building better

chances for success for these kids."

What might the kids be exposed to in a week at SBSOS? "In a typical week, the kids joins us after-school for two hours, three times a week equaling split between squash and academics, plus another three hours of squash on Saturdays. Once a month, there is a community service activity, once a month we have a speaker share their experiences with us, and twice a month a fun outing or enrichment activity. An example, last week we took the kids to the ice skating rink, many had never done it before and struggled but those that could soon assisted those that couldn't. That is team building, that is camaraderie."

I asked about his future and that of SBSOS: "In five years, I want SBSOS to have their own facility so that we can be more effective and double our capacity. It is a great program, and we need to reach more youth by spreading the word and enlarging our reach."

"For me personally? Well, I am a single dad with Marshall, my 7-year-old squash-playing son, living and working in Santa Barbara, which I love and loving very much what I do," Graham said. "Beyond that... it is a mystery."

Try-outs to enter SBSOS for 5th to 7th grade students will be held Saturday, January 14. Contact: www.SBSOS.org for more information or to consider supporting us by, yes you guessed it, donating money! Or, help by volunteering in coaching or tutoring the kids.

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SHARES

by Steven Libowitz

The Sound of Schooling, Opera Style

Santa Barbara is ground zero for opera in higher education this week, as the National Opera Association's annual convention comes to town hosted by UCSB's own Opera Theatre program. Representatives of the vocal and opera departments at universities and conservatories from around the country are gathering at the Fess Parker DoubleTree Resort from January 4-8, when there will be competitive events in vocal, opera scenes, chamber orchestra, and scholarly papers and dissertations.

One of the prime events – 2016-18 Dominick Argento Chamber Opera Competition, which determines which opera will be performed in its entirety at the 2018 convention – is taking place at Hahn Hall at the Music Academy of the West, where the public is encouraged to attend the 7:30 pm event on Friday night. (Tickets are \$10.)

That's when UCSB's Opera Theatre program will present excerpts from the three operas chosen as finalists: *After Life* by **Tom Cipullo** (composer) and **David Mason** (librettist); *Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain* by **Jeremy Gill** (composer & librettist);



Sara Widzer is a stage director and acting coach based out of Los Angeles

and *The Scarecrow* by **Joseph Turrin** (composer) and **Bernard Stambler** (librettist). Following the performances, which will feature full costumes, minimal set pieces, and even screened projections, a panel of judges – including Opera Santa Barbara artistic director **Kostis Protopapas**, plus **Henry Price**, **Robin Guarino**, and **Michael Ching** – will select the winning opera.

Performing the new or largely unheralded works is a great opportunity for the young singers as well as the UCSB program itself, said **Benjamin Brecher**, associate professor and UCSB Opera Theatre producer, who will be conducting the presentations. "It's great for them to undergo the process of learning a new piece which challenges them, with the added layer that these works are difficult musically," he explained. "They're not melodies and rhythms that are easily sung, so it can be quite challenging."

The chance to have his singers shine in front of the audience of educators is also a boon for the program, Brecher said. "We have a lot of really fine singers and a very good small program at UCSB with great teachers. What this will do is show all these universities around the country what we can do. This is going to give us an opportunity to shine on a larger national stage. It will help in the overall status of our program around the country, so they'll see that it's not just a beautiful place to go to school but a real opportunity to learn and grow."

Brecher is collaborating with Sara



reported on the arts and entertainment for more than 30 years; he has contributed to the Montecito Journal for more than ten years.

Widzer, a veteran stage director and acting coach based in Los Angeles who both performs and teaches, who will serve as stage director for the three mini-performances on Friday night. Dealing with unfamiliar music is also a challenge for the teachers, Brecher said, noting that they've been collaborating with the chosen vocalists on directional decisions. "Our job as a team is to figure out what we can do, to just keep trying things, looking at different dynamics or templates. So the singers need to be flexible. My purpose is giving (the composers') pieces justice. I'm working on making the best possible choices of what goes on stage. I think they'll be pleasantly surprised with our students and ability to make music."

For Widzer's part, she was drawn to the opportunity to work with the young singers – her area of specialization – and new music simultaneously.

"Traditional acting technique is not normally part of the opera singer's training, even though storytelling involves the entire being. The beauty of opera is that there are three story lines – the spoken text, the melody line which can often be in opposition, plus the instrumental line."

More often than not, Widzer explained, musical stage direction can be found if you read what might be called between the lines. "If you pay attention to punctuation and syllables, use of punctuation, you get guidance and clarification on character development. I love guiding young singers toward finding their secret decoder ring to navigate their character. The overall arc of the entire story, you can find it all in the music if you know how. I love helping these young singers build up a skill set that they can use as they develop professional careers."

The three pieces being performed – while each dealing in some way living life through art – are remarkably different in style, substance, and subject matter, Widzer said. "You really

The Scarecrow, a chamber opera in two acts, is based on a short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne that has previously been adapted into a play and movie. Widzer found a lot of meat in the fable about a witch who has conjured the scarecrow "to do good deeds, but has mischief is played upon her when it comes to life as a handsome young man." The key was to determine the crux of the story that she likened to *The Wizard of Oz* meets the Salem Witch Trials. "It's very fun, with magical spells, but what's the purpose? There's an innocence about this young man, who has been sent off into the world to make change."

The character has a line about seeing great possibility in a troubled world, which served as a jumping-off point, she said. "We talked a lot about how timely it is and what it's like to be an artist with the opportunity and responsibility to make change through their deeds."

In *After Life*, Gertrude Stein and Pablo Picasso are conjured back to life to debate their legacies, as well as their activities in Paris during World War II. Their confrontation is interrupted by a Holocaust victim who forces them to reconsider the meaning of death.

"We're creating a world where a woman is haunted by her memories and the unfulfilled dreams and misunderstandings," Widzer said. "It's two artists who were misunderstood but also wildly famous and appreciated in their time, and how they are remembered after their lives versus the story of the young girl, who was just as vibrant and actually had a moment being involved in Gertrude's life but has been forgotten. So we've been talking about as artists what our legacies are and our responsibility in terms of what is left behind, our footprint. It allows them to stand in truth, or at least find moments of truth within the story."

In *Letters*, which is short enough to be performed in its entirety Friday night, a young writer named Vanessa awakens one morning in to find her companion musing over some letters he's found in an old book, which sets Vanessa on a path of self-discovery and reveal dark truths about her recent life.

"There are three separate realities in the piece, so our challenge is to go between them cleanly enough that the audience can follow," Widzer explained. "We've talked about importance of memory as a performer, but also how memories ideas and fantasies can become so lived that they turn into our belief of the truth."

Brecher noted that in addition to Friday's performances, the public may also attend national voice competition, which has two divisions: scholarships (for ages 18-25) and artists (ages



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25 to 40), and takes place Saturday night back at the hotel. The final 18 singers were drawn from more than 160 applicants and will compete in front of judges such as in the Music Academy of the West's Marilyn Horne Vocal Competition. Day passes to the convention itself are also available.

For more information or to purchase tickets to Friday night's opera production competition, visit www.music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1189. To learn more about the NOA convention or to see the schedule, visit www.noa.org/convention.html.

Vixen Earns a Grant

Opera Santa Barbara will receive a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help defray costs associated with its new production of Leoš Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, which will be performed at the Granada Theatre on March 3 and 5. The company received similar NEA funding just two years ago, for its production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and for its 2012 production of *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

Vixen is the rare creation that features a local singer, the internationally known soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian**, who is also a UCSB faculty member. She'll headline the cast for Janáček's humorous allegory about the connections between people and animals, and the cyclical nature of life. The production, which will be directed by **Crystal Manich** and designed by **Francois-Pierre Couture**, is geared for both children and adults. Baritone **David Kravitz** will portray the Forester, and mezzo-soprano **Lauren McNeese** makes her company debut as the Fox. The production also will feature the company's new Youth Opera chorus for singers ages 8 to 18.

Another soprano makes her OSB debut as **Karin Wolverton** stars as Magda alongside tenor **Adam Diegel** as Ruggiero and baritone **Zeffin Quinn Hollis** as Rambaldo in Puccini's *La Rondine*. **Tara Faircloth** will direct and OSB executive director

Kostis Protopapas will conduct, closing out the company's 23rd season on April 28 and 30.

Opera on Screen

The legendary baritone Plácido Domingo takes on another new role at the Metropolitan Opera as the title king in Verdi's *Nabucco*, conducted by his longtime collaborator and Met Music director emeritus James Levine, which will be simulcast this Saturday as the first Live in HD presentation of 2017. Sharing the stage are Liudmyla Monastyrskas as Abigail, the warrior woman determined to rule empires, and Jamie Barton is the heroic Fenena. *The New York Times* raved about the production, singling out the "smoldering, deliciously wild-toned soprano" Monastyrskas for "attacking the ferocious music as if she's scaling a rock face with an ice ax."

The 2-hour, 44-minute *Nabucco* hits the screen at 9:55 am at Hahn Hall at the Music Academy of the West. Tickets are \$28. The simulcast will be re-screened at 2 pm on Sunday, January 22.

Classical Corner

Having exciting plans for the new year is normal. But it's likely that few of us are as excited about their new endeavors as are the 11 musicians who begin their 2017 N.Y. Philharmonic Global Academy Fellowship Program today. The Zarin Mehta Fellows were selected by audition from Music Academy of the West instrumentalists who participated in last year's festival last summer here in Montecito. **Kevin Chen**, violin; **Minji Choi**, cello; **Michael Daley**, percussion; **Kaelan Decman**, double bass; **Ao Peng**, viola; **Emily Switzer**, violin; **Alexander Volkov**, violin; **Jack Walters**, clarinet; **Justin Woo**, violin; and **Hyeree Yu**, viola are joined by 2016 Global Academy Fellow **Rainer Saville**, trumpet, who deferred his participation for a year.

As part of the third year of the unprecedented collaboration between

MAW and the Phil, the young artists will learn directly from Philharmonic musicians and experience all aspects of an orchestral player's life from audition to performance, representing an innovative and immersive approach to training the next generation of world-class musicians for successful careers. The 10-day training program includes rehearsing and playing alongside Philharmonic musicians in Brahms's Symphony No. 3, conducted by music director **Alan Gilbert**, for the Philharmonic's January 11-14 subscription concerts. You can join them for the final performance on their final day in New York, which will be broadcast on Facebook Live. Just prior to the concert at Lincoln Center this Wednesday, January 11, MAW will reveal its milestone 70th anniversary season, the final one of the four-year partnership.

In other Music Academy news, **Jeremy Denk** has formally joined the

faculty, which comes as no surprise – he's served as a visiting artist annually since his debut in 2013 – but is still a remarkable feather in the cap at Miraflores. **The Takacs Quartet**, perennial visitors for even longer, are also making it official as faculty members, and will perform in recital on opening night, following a smashing success last June. The wunderkind young composer-conductor-pianist **Matthew Aucoin**, who made a memorable MAW debut last season, is back for a full month in 2017, when he will lead a world premiere of his own suite from opera *The Crossing*, plus an evening of vocal chamber music. And of course, the full philharmonic – who galvanized the city with its masterful performance on a sweltering August evening at the Santa Barbara Bowl in 2015, returns to close out the collaboration at the end of the summer.

ENTERTAINMENT Page 28 ▶

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Big Mac Attack. McEuen Brothers Play SoHo

Singer-songwriter-guitarist **Jonathan McEuen** has a whole lot of reasons to be happy anticipating the new year. First off, there's his newfound level of health after undergoing surgery at Cottage Hospital for a hernia he's had for more than five years. "I didn't tell a lot of people about it, but it was really gnarly," he said over the phone last weekend. "It made it really hard to sing full out, and I was touring harder and longer than I ever had before. But they fixed me up real good."

Then there's the special soundtrack he's working on in conjunction with the ongoing celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The centennial record will feature 100 songs from 100 artists to mark the 100 years, and McEuen is producing the project. "It started with one song about Yosemite, but now 18 months down the road it's become this whole big thing," he explained. "It's kind of like what my dad did with the *Circle* album almost 50 years ago," referring to the legendary *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* album, a boundary busting Nashville-meets-West Coast folk-bluegrass collaborative project from the



SoHo hosts Jonathan McEuen and brother Nathan on Thursday, January 12

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, co-founded by John McEuen. "We're doing it not all that differently from how it was back in those days – cutting it live, taking snapshots of an event, not overproducing it at all." The project will feature both legacy folk and country artists with household names and about as many up-and-coming or under-appreciated ones.

On down the road, there are plans for a new album with his cousin **Jamie Hanna**, whose dad Jeff was the other co-founder of the Dirt Band and with whom he'd formed the Hanna-McEuen duo back in 2002, and later scored a major record deal and hit paydirt with their debut three years later.

But first up is next Thursday's gig at SoHo in a duo with his younger brother, **Nathan**, a fellow singer-songwriter who has put out several albums under his own name, including 2015's *Side By Side*, a banjo-based disc spurred

Disney-connected player. It's not at all rare for the two to appear on stage together, but it's usually under the guise of a guest shot or sittin'-in deal, or as part of a trio with their dad.

"It's an interesting time to come together, because he's had a good long run on his own as I have I, so now it's a cool union of self-made artists, guys who are high-fiving each other, coming at it like we're ready," said McEuen, "We're like a couple of velociraptors – we read each other really well and know what to do to support each other. Our best work is ahead of us."

Indeed, this upcoming SoHo show is different in that a rehearsal was scheduled for a few minutes after our interview ended.

"It might be the first gig we ever rehearsed for, because we have so much stuff we already know. so we just come together and play on stage," explained McEuen, who is known both for sensitive songwriting and the ability to shred on electric guitar while conjuring Prince with a falsetto voice. "But I really want to learn the new tunes he's been writing, and him some of mine. That way, we won't just delve into what we already know, especially for a local gig like this where everybody's already heard it. We want to give them new material to dig into."

While citing his brother as a joy to collaborate with, McEuen acknowledged his own former shortcomings in that area. "I know I had a reputation, similar to Prince, of being difficult to work with, but worth it," he said. "Now I like to think I'm just worth it. I've put in the work and learned what not to do. You just arrive and finally figure it out and know. So now, Nathan and I are really excited about our potential."

To some, improvisational performance provides some of the most exciting theater and comedy available, and at the very least is rarely boring. Partially due to our proximity to Los Angeles, the Santa Barbara and Ventura areas are enjoying a real resurgence in the art both in performance and workshop capacity. But some changes are afoot, at least temporarily.

Down in Ventura, the Ventura Improv Comedy company (VIC), is giving up the lease and vacating the premises at its theater in the Livery downtown after just two more weekends of performances, after more than a quarter-century. We're told they're not folding up shop, just re-aligning, and will be back for public performances and classes down the road in other venues – or in "a more mobile form," as the VIC put it. In the meantime, there are still four more shows to go, at 8 pm this Friday and Saturday and again next weekend, where the rotating troupe of truly funny folks will give it one last go at the old homestead. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 for ages under 12 or over 55, and \$10 for college students and members of the military. No price gouging here, though they might be pulling their hair out as part of some scene as the lights get ready to come down for the final time.

Meanwhile, an ambitious bunch who are part of the long-running Santa Barbara Improv Workshops – which offers weekly classes and monthly performances – have come together to take a sort of left turn at Albuquerque and try sketch comedy as part of this Saturday night's January 7 show. The self-written scenes will be interspersed with the usual brand of game-based or scene-from-nothing improv outings for the 8 pm show at the Unitarian Society, 1525 Santa Barbara Street, which is also where the weekly Wednesday workshop open to all takes place.

The sketches were written by **Jessica Mkitarian**, **Ali Javanbakht** (the co-writer of the play *Shady Ends* that had a staged reading at the Plaza Playhouse Theater in Carpinteria last August), and **Heather Terbell**, who will also perform, joined on stage by Victoria Charters (who has a wealth of film and TV roles on her resumé as well as a turn as Charlotte in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* at the Ensemble Theatre here in town), plus **Cora Danielson**, **Andrew DeVore**, **Mike Gordon**, **Heather Harkness**, **Brian Howard**, and **Amy Nash** – the latter of whom is also a performer at VIC. That means they've been rehearsing, which is, you know, kind of the opposite of improv. Should be interesting. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 680-0455 or visit www.sbimprov.com.



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(Continued from page 12)



More Lobero associates Rhea Hayes, Sylvia Easton, and Joan Crossland

International Film Festival. It served as the home stage for about 90 percent of that number and hosted more than 400 local youth performers.

President **Janet McCann** announced that March 15 would be the annual Hats Off luncheon. That day, the group dusts off their hats and dons them to say, "Hats on to Hats Off." Janet also added, "Don't join Lobero Associates unless you're going to have fun, because that's all we do!"

Parade of Lights

Santa Claus came to town for the 31st Parade of Lights. There were 10 tons of snow on the Breakwater along with elves and goodie bags. The parade of decorated boats began at dark with a Wild West Holiday theme. There were about 30 entries of all shapes and sizes. Of course, there are not just boats, there are paddlers too. Leading the parade was the "Ranger," a nearly 100-year-old fishing boat that belongs to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM). We were on the Channel Cat at the end of the parade.

Owner **Charlie Munger** so generously lets nonprofits use his luxurious boat. This year it was filled with guests from the (SBMM) enjoying wine and



One of the dolphin lights aboard the Channel Cat dinner by Spices N' Rice. Funds from the cruise go toward SBMM educational programs. Executive director **Greg Gorga** says, "We are now in our 16th year and attract more than 20,000 visitors a year." For all the details, visit sbmm.org.

According to the Waterfront Public Information officer **Dominique Samario**, "We think the boat parade is really special, because it was started by a few local boaters who wanted to decorate and share with the community." Now it's something the whole town comes out for.

After the parade, there was wintry fog through which we watched the fireworks. Then participants headed for the Maritime Museum for a



Boarding the Channel Cat for the Parade of Lights



SBMM board member Andy Cooper with wife Mary Jane, Channel Cat captain Michael Anderson, and SBMM executive director Greg Gorge



Bruce and Pat Hinds with Craig Macula from the SBMM



Sailors on the Channel Cat Jill Leaney with husband board member Leslie, Cindy Makela, and George Writer, both board members

dinner and awards ceremony. They were vying for gifts and cash and the fun of winning. The Commercial Fishing category and also Grand Prize went to **Bernard Friedman** with boat "Perseverance"; Commercial other **Charlie Munger** for "Channel Cat"; Human Power was **Kelly Lane** with "Peddle Boat Casino"; Power Boat category was **Dan Dumong** with "CDD"; and the sailing category was **Joseph Hahn** in "Could be Trouble."

Is it embarrassing to win the booby prize? Ask **Chris Lenci**, who owns


"Bad Seaman" and received the fewest votes. The prize has the outstanding name of the Golden Bilge Pump trophy.

It takes a village to put on this show, which includes the Waterfront Department, the Parade of Lights Committee, the Harbor Merchants Association, Stearns Wharf Business Association, and the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

You'll want to put the waterfront on your next year's Christmas list of things to do.

•M/

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by Mark Ashton Hunt

Mark and his wife, Sheela Hunt, are real estate agents. His family goes back nearly 100 years in the Santa Barbara area. Mark's grandparents – Bill and Elsie Hunt – were Santa Barbara real estate brokers for 25 years.

Montecito 2016 Year In Review

As we look ahead to 2017, one thing we hope to see more of are sales of properties over \$10 million. Montecito is famous for its "grand estates," and there were only four sales over \$10 million in 2016, a figure that pales next to the 11 such sales reported for the year 2015. Additionally, the largest sale in Montecito in 2016 was due to **Oprah Winfrey** picking up a neighboring 20+-acre estate to add to her 93108 empire.

Overall in the Montecito 93108 ZIP code, we saw 192+/- sales in 2016 (according to the Multiple Listing Service), compared to 195+/- sales in 2015, with well over half of 2016 sales under \$3,000,000. Essentially, what this illustrates quite clearly is that the higher price ranges saw fewer sales than the previous year across the board.

While all homes in the 93108 ZIP code are often referred to as being in Montecito, a number of sales were in 93108, but are not in either of the Montecito school districts (Cold Spring or Montecito Union). These 93108 properties are found mostly in West Montecito (closer to Santa Barbara) and in East Montecito (more rural areas, such as Toro Canyon, Ladera Lane, and East Valley Road, east of Ortega Ridge).

For those who like statistics (as I do), here is how sales broke down in 2016 in all of the 93108 ZIP code area:

11 sales were under a million dollars, mostly condos and small fixers in outlying 93108 areas;

56 sales between \$1-\$2,000,000 – Many fixers, townhomes, condos, smaller homes on smaller lots with a few great deals going to lucky buyers;

homes with a good piece of land and a livable home with amenities or fixers on a good lot;

23 sales between \$3-\$4,000,000 – Moving on up in this price range with substantial fixers, homes on larger lots, remodeled homes, compounds;

20 between \$4-\$5,000,000 – Good value in this price range for substantial homes or remodeled/new properties, many with an acre or more and amenities such as views, pools, privacy;

22 from \$5 to \$7,000,000 – This price range offered larger homes, acreage, views, pools, et cetera... this is the price range I consider to be junior estates;

9 sales between \$7-\$10,000,000 – Larger estates, gated communities, significant square footage, ocean views, privacy, gated, et cetera;

4 sales over \$10,000,000 – This price range offers multiple acres, larger homes, A+ locations, ocean views, et cetera

Over 80% of all sales in 2016 were previously chosen by me as a MontecitoBestBuys.com pick, proving again that price is everything. If priced to be a best buy, it is more likely the home will sell. That said, there are no guarantees a home will sell until it finds a buyer, and looking into 2017 there are still many great opportunities out there, so keep your eyes and ears open and attuned.

Looking back, here are a handful of my best-buy picks that sold in 2016 in a variety of price ranges:



1592 East Mountain Drive: Last listed at \$14,900,000; sold for \$11,450,000; Gated in an A+ location just doors over from the San Ysidro Ranch Hotel



848 Park Lane: Last listed at \$7,695,000; sold for \$6,000,000; Gated 2 acres, literally a mini castle with more than 7,500 square feet, pool, et cetera



1741 Glen Oaks: Last listed at \$6,900,000; sold for \$3,290,000; 1.65 acres, 9,000+ square feet between all structures, large project property



455 Nicholas Lane: Last listed at \$2,395,000 sold for \$2,383,000; Ocean-view home on low-traffic street, more than 3,000 square feet of living space

Overall in 2016, a number of homes sold well below asking price, with many folks finding great deals by looking at homes that had been on the market awhile and had reduced their prices a time or few. Others found their new home by grabbing "priced to sell" opportunities when they saw them hit the market.

Happy New Year and increased peace, prosperity, and health for you and your family.

...

Mark@Villagesite.com or call/text (805) 698-2174 with any thoughts or comments, or for a home price evaluation if you are thinking of selling or a tour of the areas. Real Estate offerings if you are looking for a dream home in Montecito. Visit my site, www.MontecitoBestBuys.com, from which this article is based.

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Market Profile & Trends Overview

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Market Profile & Trends Overview

	Month	LM	L3M	PYM	LY	YTD	Trending Versus*: PriorYTD	Trending Versus*: PriorYear
Median List Price of all Current Listings	\$5,100,000	11%		-5%				
Average List Price of all Current Listings	\$8,039,212	5%		9%				
December Median Sales Price	\$2,810,000	12%	6%	17%	-5%	\$2,800,000	-5%	-6%
December Average Sales Price	\$2,763,383	-9%	-12%	0%	-33%	\$3,661,787	-12%	-12%
Total Properties Currently for Sale (Inventory)	139	-13%		36%				
December Number of Properties Sold	12	-14%		-46%			-1%	
December Average Days on Market (Solds)	108	-5%	-4%	21%	29%	106	29%	26%
Asking Price per Square Foot (based on New Listings)	\$1,210	-5%	4%	-2%	15%	\$1,185	13%	13%
December Sold Price per Square Foot	\$866	-5%	-5%	-6%	-10%	\$994	4%	3%
December Month's Supply of Inventory	11.6	1%	-1%	150%	28%	10.1	12%	12%
December Sale Price vs List Price Ratio	95.3%	-1.5%	0%	-1%	1.6%	94.1%	0.3%	0.4%

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SHARES

She Won But Lost

Hillary Clinton's supporters and her media allies have all been correct in the popular vote tally she received. She won by almost 3,000,000 votes... and lost.

Why did she lose?

Mainly because she is Hillary Clinton.

Here is one of the most interesting aspects of this election that has been published:

There are 3,141 counties in the USA and Trump won an overwhelming majority of them. Thus, according to Hillary's supporters and her media allies, these numbers would indicate that the majority of voters in the USA are racists and misogynists.

Ernie Salomon
Santa Barbara

New Hope in 2017

The 2016 election was one of the most astonishing political stories in our nation's history. A brash, colorful, no-holds-barred billionaire, who never held office, was elected president of the United States.

Whether it was a miracle, God's intervention, or the will of the people, we may never know. Trump's path to victory was not easy. He beat the most "brutal, ruthless, well-funded political machine in our generation."

Furthermore, he was up against President Obama, Hillary Clinton, the White House, Democrats, the Republican establishment, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, the international community, the U.N., and the mainstream media.

Why did Trump win? He had a message of "economic populism," law and order, strong national defense, and putting America first.

In the 2016 election, Americans who were forgotten, ignored, and dismissed rose up and said enough is enough. We want our country back. We want our freedoms, jobs, right to bear arms, safe borders, respect for our flag and national anthem, respect for our military and policemen, and place on the world stage back.

Going forward, for the first time in eight years, there is real hope for America. We will have a powerful, pro-American president who will

secure, and prosperous again. I, for one, feel optimistic and hopeful for the coming 2017 year.

Diana Thorn
Carpinteria

Draining the Swamp

While we Trump supporters are still in a celebratory mood, we can look at Trump's promise to drain the swamp. While we can be cautiously optimistic with his cabinet appointments so far, I don't see any Thomas Jeffersons or Warren Hardings in the lineup that will eviscerate it in a no-holds-barred manner.

Here is what's on my wish list: Get rid of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Shut down the Department of Agriculture. Eliminate the Department of Transportation. Abolish the Department of Education. Pull the plug on the Department of Energy. Here are a few more money savers: delete the EPA (the states can fulfill that function better); return all law enforcement to the states including Homeland Security (that way, they'll worry about security not political correctness); create a flat sales tax, eliminate the IRS and income tax with the applicable amendments; eliminate the Federal Reserve Bank; cancel membership in the U.N. and IMF, and ask them to return all funds received for current year and fees, as well as internet control; eliminate the Labor Relations Board; eliminate civil servant unions; privatize Amtrak, USPS, and TSA; eliminate all foreign aid; restore the Bracero Program and accept only immigrants that pass rigorous background checks and contribute needed skills not provided by Americans; eliminate Bureau of Land Management and return BLM land to the states. Sell off all unused buildings and real estate holdings of all agencies. The government did it to itself: it grew like a cancer and then ran up a bill it can't pay; now the financial tumors need to be excised and sold to pay off their insane spending habit.

And last but not least in the joyous spirit of the season, let's add to this collection by eliminating the Department of Veterans Affairs. The reasons are so numerous and so

to list all of them here. However, in brief: this is the agency that put veterans on secret waiting lists, leading to needless and tragic deaths. And then the bureaucrats awarded themselves big bonuses (nice work, eh!).

The shoddy treatment of America's former warriors continues. Here are some excerpts from a story in the *Daily Caller*: ...almost 600 veterans who received dental care may have been infected with HIV or hepatitis. The VA is notifying 592 veterans who had dental procedures from a particular dental provider... If any veterans test positive for HIV or hepatitis, they can receive free treatment. Gee, that's a great deal. You may get a life-altering illness, but the bureaucracy that enabled the illness will give you additional treatments.

Oh, and you'll be glad to know that the VA dentist who potentially exposed the veterans is continuing to draw a government paycheck. Instead of being fired, that dentist has been reassigned to an administrative role, despite potentially exposing almost 600 veterans to HIV or hepatitis. The VA's penchant for secrecy wasn't limited to waiting lists. The bureaucracy also has tried to cover up poor performance at dozens of local medical facilities. *Stars and Stripes* has revealed the unseemly details. A veterans group has blasted the Department of Veterans Affairs over leaked internal documents showing dozens of medical facilities performing at below-average levels.

USA Today obtained the documents and published them Wednesday, revealing the secret system. The VA had previously refused to make the ratings public, claiming the system is for internal use only. It rates each of the VA's medical centers on a scale of one to five, with one being the worst. The worst performing centers are in Dallas and El Paso, Texas, and in Nashville, Memphis, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The documents also show that some medical centers have not improved despite scandals and scrutiny from Congress.

The Phoenix VA still sits at a one-star rating despite a 2014 scandal revealing veterans died while waiting for care and that staff manipulated wait-time data there and at other VA hospitals across the country. In response, the malfeasance, neglect in Phoenix, and mistreatment of veterans, the leaders of the VA in Washington decided to punish the local bureaucracy by... well, take a wild guess. The VA announced last October it plans to allocate \$28 million to the Phoenix center in addition to its annual budget. Michael Cannon and Chris Preble explained the problem in a column for *The New York Times*: "Even when the depart-

helps inflict great harm on veterans, active-duty military personnel and civilians. They proposed an idea that would lead to honest budgeting and make the Department of Veterans Affairs superfluous..."

What they are proposing is simply re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. What needs to be done is the entire department needs to be abolished.

There is only one guaranteed way to get fired from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Falsifying records won't do it. Slovenliness, or chronic mediocrity, won't do it, having a bad attitude will get you promoted to the front desk. Prescribing obsolete drugs won't do it. Cutting all manner of corners on health and safety is, at worst, going to get you a reprimand. No, the only surefire way to get canned at the VA is to report any of these matters to authorities who might do something about it. "Our concern is really about the pattern that we're seeing, where whistleblowers who disclose wrongdoing are facing trumped-up punishment, but the employees who put veterans' health at risk are going unpunished," special counsel Carolyn Lerner recently told National Public Radio. And he then says the only real solution is to eliminate the bureaucracy."

The real fix is to get rid of the VA entirely. The United States has an absolute obligation to do right by veterans. It does not have an absolute obligation to run a lousy, wasteful, unaccountable, corrupt, and inefficient bureaucracy out of Washington. Imagine that the federal government simply gave all the VA hospitals to the states they're in. Instead of the VA budget, Congress just cut checks to states to spend on their veterans. You'd still have problems, of course. But what you would also have are local elected officials, city councilmen, state legislators, mayors, governors, etc." Personally, I'd rather see the money spent on veterans go straight to the veterans themselves, in the form of cash payments or vouchers to be used for health care in the private sector."

Amen to that.

I'd like to conclude by saying that I have had to deal with the VA for many years and while I have not encountered anything near as catastrophic as the examples given, I can certainly empathize with the veterans that have. My most recent ongoing issue is dental; I have made approximately 15 trips to LA VA to have it taken care of, to no avail. The problem still exists.

On second thought, maybe I'm one of the lucky ones.

Larry Bond
Santa Barbara

•M/J



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT:

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **CS Advisors**, 144 Santo Tomas Lane, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. **CSA Real Estate Services, Inc.**, 144 Santo Tomas Lane, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on December 23, 2016. This statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Tara Jayasinghe. FBN No. 2016-0003481. Published January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017.

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The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **Juniper**, 525 San Ysidro Rd. #1, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. **Marie Ferris**, 401 Alston Road, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on December

expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Christine Potter. FBN No. 2016-0003426. Published January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT:

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **She Is Rising**, 200 Miramar Ave., Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. **Catherine G. Korzen**, 200 Miramar Ave., Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. **Shelby S. Stawiecki**, 200 Miramar Ave., Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on December 1, 2016. This statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Jessica Sheaff. FBN No. 2016-0003273. Published December 21, 28, 2016, January 4, 11, 2017.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT:

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **Shopstreet Walk**, 1050 Golf Road, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. **Marcia A Gonzalez**, 1050 Golf Road, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on December 12, 2016. This statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Tara Jayasinghe. FBN No. 2016-

December 21, 28, 2016, January 4, 11, 2017.

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The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **West Vic Partners**, 326 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. **Dean Heck**, 12306 Gorham Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90049. **Garry A. Heck**, 1157 El Medio Ave, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. **Jean W. Ogle**, 1967 Inverness LN, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. **SB Ventures, Inc.**, 1224 Coast Village Cir. Ste. 20E, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on November 28, 2016. This statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Noe Solis. FBN No. 2016-0003242. Published December 21, 28, 2016, January 4, 11, 2017.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT:

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **Los Manoles**, 114 Natoma Avenue #A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. **Laura Loredana Manole**, 114 Natoma Avenue #A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. **Tudor Ionut Manole**, 114 Natoma Avenue #A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Barbara County on November 28, 2016. This statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk (SEAL) by Connie Tran. FBN No. 2016-0003243. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2016, January 4, 2017.

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PASEO NUEVO
8 W. De La Guerra Pl. - S.B.

- ★ 20th CENTURY WOMEN (R)
- ★ SILENCE (R)
- ★ LA LA LAND (PG-13)
- JACKIE (R)

CAMINO REAL
CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE
Hollister & Storke - GOLETA

- ★ LA LA LAND (PG-13)
- ★ ROGUE ONE: (PG-13) (2D)
A STAR WARS STORY
- ★ UNDERWORLD: (R)
BLOOD WARS (2D)
- PASSENGERS (PG-13) (2D)
- MOANA (PG) (2D)
- FENCES (PG-13)

FIESTA 5

916 State Street - S.B.

- ★ SING (PG) (2D)
- ★ HIDDEN FIGURES (PG)
- ★ A MONSTER CALLS (PG-13)
- WHY HIM? (R)
- MOANA (PG) (2D)

FAIRVIEW

225 N. Fairview - Goleta

- ★ HIDDEN FIGURES (PG)
- ★ SING (PG) (2D)
- WHY HIM? (R)

PLAZA DE ORO

371 Hitchcock Way - S.B.

- MANCHESTER BY THE SEA (R)
- LION (PG-13)

ARLINGTON

1317 State Street

- ★ ROGUE ONE:
A STAR WARS STORY
(PG-13) (2D)

METRO 4

618 State Street - S.B.

- ★ ROGUE ONE:
A STAR WARS STORY
(PG-13) (2D/3D)
- ★ UNDERWORLD: (R)
BLOOD WARS (2D/3D)
- PASSENGERS (PG-13) (2D)
- FENCES (PG-13)

RIVIERA

2044 Alameda Padre Serra - S.B.

- ELLE (R)

★ Starts Thursday, January 12 ★

Ben Affleck....★ LIVE BY NIGHT (R)

Mark Wahlberg....★ PATRIOTS DAY (R)

Jamie Foxx....★ SLEEPLESS (R)

★ THE BYE BYE MAN (PG-13)

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SHARES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note to readers: This entertainment calendar is a subjective sampling of arts and other events taking place in the Santa Barbara area for the next week. It is by no means comprehensive. Be sure to read feature stories in each issue that complement the calendar. In order to be considered for inclusion in this calendar, information must be submitted no later than noon on the Wednesday eight days prior to publication date. Please send all news releases and digital artwork to slibowitz@yahoo.com

by Steven Libowitz

ENDING THIS WEEK

Bye-bye to Brits – British Art from Whistler to World War II, the selection of 70-plus paintings, drawings, and sculptures offering an overview of British art from 1890-1945 drawn from the permanent collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, closes on Sunday afternoon after a nearly four-month exhibition. It's your last chance to catch this exhibition – curated by art historian **Peyton Skipwith** – that presents the story of modernism unique to England in the persistence of figuration even as the lessons from continental avant-garde practice were absorbed. Closing the same day is Cecil Beaton's "London's Honourable Scars: Photographs of the Blitz", a series of dramatic World War II photographs by Beaton, who was best-known for his iconic images of royalty and movie legends and multi-award-winning designs for such films as *My Fair Lady*. The installation consists of 15 images belonging to Beaton's London's Honourable Scars, a series that pictured the devastation and resilience of London during the Nazi Blitz of 1940-41. WHERE: 1130 State Street (entrance in the rear) INFO: 963-4364 or www.sbma.net

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

1st Thursday – The holidays are over, but art as something to enjoy year-round persists – especially at 10 West Gallery, where the annual holiday "Small World" of gift-sized artwork continues through Monday, January 23. As soon as your purchase disappears from the walls, another gets hung in its place, ensuring a great selection of Santa Barbara area artwork throughout the show.... New art is also on display at Artamo Gallery, via a selection of new works from Judy Hintz Cox, Elana Kundell, Jack Mohr, Donn Angel Pérez, and Julia Pinkham, all of which arrived just days before the

exhibition. Drop by to enjoy champagne and chocolate while also celebrating the 12th anniversary of the gallery.... Distinctive Art Gallery is the home for Moments of Clarity, a new exhibition by local photographers Craton, Haynes, Louy, Muench, Owen, Reiersen, and Sipress, works that offer unexpected beauty, graceful simplicity, and epic wonderment.... **Pamela Larson's** grand collection of vivid paintings full of emotions and feelings comes complete with the opportunity to meet the artist and enjoy live music and complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres at Lady McClintock Studios.... Over at Sullivan Goss, celebrate the opening of two exciting exhibitions: the sixth gallery show of Ken Bortolazzo, one of America's foremost kinetic sculptors, plus Our Contemporary Abstraction, which features non-objective paintings demonstrating the rich diversity of the subject. Among the artists represented are **John Carlander**, a veteran of more than 25 one-person exhibitions who also taught art and art history at Westmont College for 33 years. And it's not too late to secure a piece of original art for no more than 10 Ben Franklins in the Sullivan Goss's continuing popular exhibition 100 Grand, which features 100 works selling for \$1,000 or less.... Toast 2017 at CASA Gallery at VOICE magazine, where New Light, New Year celebrates light emerging from darkness after winter solstice as seen in the work of local artists. Plus, you can sing along to "Auld Lang Syne" and other seasonal and timeless favorites with pianist **Harold Kono**.... Paint your favorite memory in tempera, inspired by David Korty's work on view in the current exhibit "Untitled: Drawing from the Schorr Collection", in the Family Resource Center at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Get there early for a special performance by **Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano**, previewing the weekend schedule of concerts. WHEN: 5 to 8 pm WHERE:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

**Master of the Tradition**

– Jump-start your January as ¡Viva el Arte de Santa Bárbara! presents Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Grammy-winning masters of traditional mariachi. The music, which is played on violins, trumpets, guitars,

guitarróns, and vihuelas, also features a variety of vocals in repertoire that ranges from heroic corridos, to romantic ballads, to high-stepping polkas and marches. The more than half-century-old Los Camperos de Nati Cano is noted for performing demanding musical arrangements that highlight the individual skills and voices of the players. The group was the first to establish a mariachi dinner theater, La Fonda, in Los Angeles back in 1969, and were in residence through 2007, providing new opportunities for musicians to perform and bringing mariachi into the mainstream. After a nine-year hiatus, Los Camperos re-opened La Fonda in March 2016 to critical acclaim. The two-time Grammy winners released *Tradición, Arte y Pasión*, their fifth CD with Smithsonian Folkways, in July 2015, and received another nomination for a Grammy. Los Camperos's series of free family concerts take place at Isla Vista School tonight at 7 and at the Marjorie Luke Theatre at Santa Barbara Jr. High on Sunday at 4 and 7 pm. Meet the artists at post-show receptions following the 7 pm shows. The musicians will also offer a free community workshop at La Casa de La Raza from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, January 5, open to advanced students, with observers welcome. INFO: 884-4087, ext. 7 or www.facebook.com/VivaelArteSB

Lower State Street and environs COST: free INFO: www.santabarbaradowntown.com/about/1st-thursday

Notes in the Sand – Sandcastle Music Together, the Santa Barbara-based musical education organization, visits various branches of the Santa Barbara Public Library system over the next two weeks to offer a sample of their courses that promote a lifetime love of music in children ages 5 and under. Classes include many fun, developmentally appropriate music activities, including instrument play, singing, rhythmic chants, lots of opportunities for wiggling, crawling, jumping, bouncing, and more. At the library, the lively but relaxed environment lets children gain experience through musical play and get a jump-start on musical appreciation and aptitude that can last a lifetime. Children and their friends and families are invited to attend the free events, but please arrive early, as space is limited. Dates are Thursday, January 5, at the Carpinteria Library; Friday, January 6, at the Eastside; Wednesday, January 11, at Goleta; and next Friday, January 13, at the Montecito Library, 1469 East Valley Road WHEN: All events at 10:30 am COST: free INFO: 969-5063 or www.SBLibrary.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

12th Night – Speaking of Stories's annual fundraiser is a final frenzy of fun, frivolity, and festivities before – pardon the pun – turning the page on the holiday season to embark on a new year. The

event features a reading by **Joe Spano**, the Emmy Award-winning actor (who just appeared in Rubicon's *A Christmas Carol* through Christmas eve) and one of the organization's longtime readers following a supper of hors d'oeuvres, cake, traditional wassail punch and dessert, plus Loire Valley Wineries wine tasting. It all takes place at the historic Santa Barbara home of **Carolyn Butcher** and **Michael Perry**. And 12th Night also serves to preview Speaking of Stories's 2017 season, which features five fabulous weekends of escape via listening to carefully curated stories artfully read by professional actors, capped off with cookies and milk on the terrace at Center Stage Theater. The season begins with a perennial favorite, *Nothing But Laughs*, this year featuring **Meredith Baxter**, on January 22-23, followed by the new but already massively popular *Personal Stories* (featuring local writers own 10-minute tales, which they perform themselves) on February 26-27. New themes serve as the umbrella for the final three installments: *Stories from the Twilight Zone* on March 26-27; *Voices of Tomorrow* on April 23-24; and *Survivor Stories* – featuring Spano – on May 21-22. Subscription available. WHEN: 5:30 pm COST: \$75+ INFO: 963-0408 or www.CenterStageTheater.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Going a-Broad – UCSB alumnus **Kenny Broad** – an underwater

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6



Dance Fever Showcase – Dance Fever owners **Vasily Golovin** and **Anastasia Banderovskaya** – the Russian dancers who opened their studio here on Coast Village Road just last July – present a dance showcase featuring kids and adults of all ages. The couple, former World Champions from Russia, will also perform, joined by special guests from Boston who were the United States National Latin finalists. WHEN: 7 pm today & tomorrow WHERE: Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo, upstairs in the mall COST: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door INFO: 963-0408 or www.CenterStageTheater.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6



Driven to Abstraction – The Abstract10 group is comprised of 10 women artists who live and work in Santa Barbara banding together to cultivate their work as contemporary abstract artists. **Penny Arntz, Pat Calonne, Peggy Ferris, Madeline Garrett, Diane Giles, Bay Hallowell, Marilee Krause, Laurie McMillan, Julie Young, and Michelle Zuzalek** who have backgrounds in graphic design, business, teaching, art museums, and psychotherapy while their abstract art is inspired by subjects as diverse as nature, architecture, the figure, the subconscious, memory, gesture, and geometry.

They have been meeting monthly since 2010 to share art-related news, critiques, and support in developing new work. All are expected to be on hand when their group exhibition "The Abstract10 : Synergies" opens this evening at the Architectural Foundation Gallery. **WHEN:** Opening reception 5 to 7 tonight; exhibit continues through February 11 **WHERE:** 229 E. Victoria St. (in the historic Acheson House on the corner of Garden) **COST:** free **INFO:** 965-6307 or www.afsb.org

cave explorer and environmental anthropologist who was the 2011 National Geographic Explorer of the Year – returns to his alma mater to deliver the multimedia presentation *The Risky Science of Exploration*. The talk, part of the National Geographic Live series, draws from his career exploring submerged caves and blue holes, some of the most dangerous and scientifically significant places on Earth, work that has led to important discoveries about early human inhabitants, plus animals seen nowhere else, and revealing much about the planet's climate history. His work has taken him to every continent, where his pursuits include chasing venomous snakes across Vietnam and plunging into ancient subaquatic caves in the Bahamas. Along the way, he's had to avoid stirring up sediments that can wipe out visibility, succumbing to nausea as they pass through a toxic layer of hydrogen sulfide or getting lost in maze-like passageways with a limited supply of diving gasses. The former Gaucho who studied literature as an undergrad here will laugh his way through tales of his triumphs, tragedies, and just plain weird experiences while furthering our knowledge of the world.

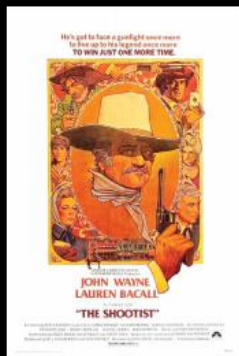
WHEN: 8 pm **WHERE:** UCSB's Campbell Hall **COST:** \$25 general, \$15 youth 18 & under **INFO:** 893-3535 or www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Begin the Briere – Santa Barbara-based singer-songwriter **Danny Briere**'s outlet over the last year has ranged from jamming with his rock band to creating exquisitely moving if slightly eccentric music with his new ensemble that feature two bassists, a percussionist, and vocal harmonies exploring interconnection and free play. Now we get to hear him as stripped down as possible in a songwriter showcase on acoustic Tuesday at SOhO, where he'll be joined on the bill (and possibly on stage) by two musical friends and colleagues: **Elena Shelton**, whose 2013 debut CD was produced by former Summercamp-er/soundtrack artist/studio wizard Sean McCue (who just played SOhO himself last week), and **Taylor Hamilton**. **WHEN:** 8 pm **WHERE:** SOhO, 1221 State Street, upstairs in Victoria Court **COST:** \$15 **INFO:** 962-7776 or www.sohosb.com

•JL/

MONDAY, JANUARY 9



Shootin' for 2017 – **Jon Burlingame**, one of the nation's leading writers about music for films and television who is a regular contributor to *Variety*, serves as guest series curator for tonight's Elmer Bernstein Memorial Film Series screening of *The Shootist*. Starring John Wayne in his final film role, the movie follows a dying gunfighter who spends his last days looking for a way to die with the least amount of pain and the most dignity. The series honors the life and work of Bernstein – the legendary composer who spent his final decades in Montecito – via a periodic selection of films noteworthy for the importance of their musical scores to the telling of the movie's story. Burlingame, who wrote a

chapter on Bernstein in his 2003 book *Moving Music: Conversations With Renowned Film Composers*, will host a discussion and audience Q&A prior to the film screening. **WHEN:** 7 pm **WHERE:** 1214 State Street **COST:** \$10-\$20 **INFO:** 899-2222 or www.granadasb.org

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GAVIN DEGRAW

SAT JAN 14, 2017 7PM

UCSB ARTS & LECTURES



THE PEKING ACROBATS

SUN JAN 15, 2017 3PM

THEATER LEAGUE

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

TUE JAN 17, 2017 7:30PM
WED JAN 18, 2017 7:30PM

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Weight Watchers has premiered two new ads about their program that feature Montecito's most famous resident, **Oprah Winfrey**.

"Since I've started Weight Watchers, I've lost over 40 pounds," declares Oprah, 62. "I can honestly tell you, I struggle no more."

The former TV talk-show host says she "lives well while eating great" and has "a fantastic and full life" before listing off the wide array of foods she has been enjoying since she joined the weight-loss plan, including pasta, tacos, and, course, bread.

"I've never felt deprived," adds Oprah, who is not only a spokesperson, but also a board member.

She secured that position in 2014 after purchasing a 10-percent stake in the company ahead of the release of her first TV spot.

"Weight Watchers is easier than any other program I've ever been on. It's a lifestyle, a way of eating, and a way of living that's so freeing."

"You never feel like you are on a diet and it works."

"I believe others who are looking to make a change will be as inspired as I am about the stories we are sharing in this new campaign."

Stock prices soared after Oprah announced she would become the face of the company a year or so ago, with the former queen of daytime TV taking home \$45 million in the 24 hours after she announced she had bought such a large stake in the company.

Losing the pounds while gaining the dollars.

Dream Steam

Although it was 96 hours after the big day, Mannheim Steamroller evoked all the Yuletide memories during its 32nd annual Christmas tour at the Granada.

The talented neoclassical New Age troupe founded by **Chip Davis**, who have sold more than 40 million albums, was in fine form with an eclectic selection of carols and other Christmas fare.

The show, the penultimate on their annual tour, was accompanied by stunning film footage on a giant screen behind them, which added immeasurably to the event's enjoyment.

Silver Lining

They hit the headlines in 2014 when they announced they were "consciously uncoupling."

But Montecito's newest celebrity resident, **Gwyneth Paltrow**, says her separation from ex-husband rocker **Chris Martin** hasn't effected their special bond, and believes the Coldplay frontman would still "take a bullet for her."

raises daughter **Apple**, 12, and son **Moses**, 10, with Martin - hopes to inspire others thanks to the mature and sensible way they handled their split.

In the February issue of *InStyle* magazine, she enthuses: "To this day, Chris would take a bullet for me. Even though I'm not his wife."

"I honestly think Chris and I have contributed something positive to the culture of divorce."

Paltrow has often been criticized for what she has put on her website **GOOP**, but she insists she doesn't care.

"I've learned how the cycle works. It used to be that I would talk about something or write about it, and people would be like 'What the f*** is she talking about? She's a witch!'"

"Later on, it would sort of catch on. So now I just recognize it. Okay, I'm going to talk about this, and people will think it's weird, and that's how it goes."

Adds Paltrow, who's now dating TV writer **Brad Falchuk**, 45: "A friend of mine told me if you're trailblazer, you're the first one through, and you get the cuts because you're hacking the path."

Up in Smoke

Buckingham Palace has banned outside smoking at royal residences amid concerns about smoke drifting into nearby buildings.

Up until now, smoking has been allowed in designated outdoor areas within royal boundaries, including Kensington Palace where **Prince Harry**, a nicotine junkie, has a home in the grounds near his brother **Prince William** and sister-in-law, **Kate**.

The ban covers Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St. James's Palace, Kensington Palace, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Clarence House has been smoke-free for years at the behest of **Prince Charles**, who detests the habit.

In the meantime, courtiers will be allowed to smoke e-cigarettes in designated areas until May 21 as a "transitional measure."

Sightings: Former "Fonz" **Henry Winkler** and wife **Stacey** at the San Ysidro Ranch....*Ghostbusters* director **Ivan Reitman** at Pierre Lafond....Actor **Billy Baldwin** flying solo at Lucky's

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should email him at richardmin@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*.

To reach Priscilla, email her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com or call 969-3301

•M/J

(Continued from page 19)

and approve the 2017 budget. New president **Sue Ziliotto** tells us that 2017 marks the 30th year that MERRAG has served the community of Montecito and encourages residents to get involved in the volunteer organization.

MERRAG is a network of trained volunteers that are prepared to respond to a community disaster during the critical first 72 hours following an event. The organization works hand in hand with Montecito Fire Protection District, as well as Montecito Water and Montecito Sanitary districts, to provide an extra layer of support during emergency events. MERRAG was founded by the leaders of the three local special districts, who all recognized their limited resources to cover the Montecito area and believed that training volunteers was a way to help the community recover more quickly during a disaster, according to Ziliotto.

Every month, training classes are held on the second Thursday of the month, at MFPD Station 1, from 10 am to noon. Some of the classes are in-depth training courses for emergency response by MERRAG, and other sessions are intended to help community members prepare their families, neighbors, and work colleagues to better respond in an emergency. The organization is trained through the CERT curriculum, a national emergency preparedness program.

MERRAG members are connected through a network of two-way radios, which are also given to various homeowner associations, schools, businesses, retirement communities, and hotels. The organization also has a mobile communication vehicle with emergency power for service anywhere in Montecito, and has a stockpile of emergency supplies and equipment. "We are a vital part of this community," new president Ziliotto

said. One of her goals in 2017 is to reinvigorate the organization and attract new volunteers who want to help out in an emergency.

Ziliotto will be joined by new officers **Carrie Haffner** (first vice president), **Gayle Tucker** (second vice president), **David Boyd** (secretary), and **Tom Schleck** (treasurer). Other officers include past presidents **Phyllis Marble** and **Cate Wilkins**, and at-large board members **Jane Dyruff**, **Vicky Harbison**, **Mike McCaleb**, **Warner Owens**, and **John Ziliotto**.

The first training class will be held next week on January 12, and the training module is Disaster Preparedness. "Studies have proven that the community that is prepared for an emergency is the community which will recover from the disaster quicker and with less long-term affects," Ziliotto said.

For more information, contact Ziliotto at nacheech@verizon.net or **Joyce Reed** at the Montecito Fire Department, jreed@montecitofire.com, 969-2537.

Belden Fine Art & Antiques Opens in Summerland

Two years ago this week, we reported on Summerland's Big Yellow House, and its potential revival into a new eatery called Pace. Now, we are marking the soft opening of a new art gallery and antique store, Belden, which opened late last year, after the plans for Pace fell through in 2015. Owners **Kevin Belden** and **Manny Almeida** have overhauled the space with the help of building owner **Paul Franz** but have been careful to keep the historic elements of the 1884-built building, which many remember fondly as a casual eatery that closed in 2007.

"We've wanted to ground ourselves



Kevin Belden opens antique and art store in former home of The Big Yellow House in Summerland

and grow roots for quite awhile, and this was the perfect opportunity to do so," Belden told us during a recent visit to the store. Belden and Almeida, partners in life and in business, have been supplying clients with fine art and antiques privately for more than 20 years, from both their Ojai ranch and their Connecticut home. Belden, an interior designer, says the duo has clients and projects in New York, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Arizona, and London, in addition to their West Coast clientele. "The feedback thus far is that people are excited they don't have to go to Los Angeles to buy fine art and antiques for their homes," Belden said.

Belden offers original 19th- and 20th-century European and American paintings and sculptures, with a focus on impressionist, post-impressionist, and modern art. They also have a collection of 18th- and 19th-century European and American antiques, from dining tables and chairs, to sterling silver pieces, lamps, decorative accents, and more. "This is more than just a business to us," Belden said. "We are living our passion every day by selling these gorgeous pieces," he said.

The space has been revamped to better compartmentalize the large area; the roughly 4,000-sq-ft store has various rooms filled with antiques, as well as a gallery space to showcase the fine-art paintings. Original woodwork, including decorative columns,

a fireplace hearth, and built-in cabinetry, remain. Belden and Almeida also added carpeting over the wood flooring, to make the store more warm and welcoming.

The iconic sign will eventually be replaced with Belden's logo, though the original size and shape of the sign will remain. The iconic house was originally built as a private residence in 1884 by the founder of Summerland: H.L. Williams. The house was purchased in the early 1970s by John and June Young, who painted it the iconic yellow color (with a bright-orange roof), against the wishes of the Summerland community.

Mrs. Young passed away in 2003, and her four daughters and stepdaughters sold the building to a buyer who intended to retain yet renovate the casual restaurant, which eventually closed in 2007. The building went into foreclosure in 2010, and was purchased in 2011 by current owner, local contractor **Paul Franz**, who aimed to restore the property to accommodate retail tenants. In 2012, renovations on the property were underway, with improvements to structural integrity, façade updates, landscaping, a new parking lot configuration, and ADA accessibility. In 2015, Evolution Yoga opened in the studio space on the second floor.

Belden Fine Art & Antiques is located at 102 Pierpont Avenue. For more information, email Kevin@beldenfineart.com.

•/M

93108 OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY

SUNDAY JANUARY 8

If you have a 93108 open house scheduled, please send us your free directory listing to realestate@montecitojournal.net

ADDRESS	TIME	\$	#BD / #BA	AGENT NAME	TELEPHONE #	COMPANY
660 Hot Springs Road	1-4pm	\$9,995,000	6bd/7.5ba	Tim Walsh	259-8808	Village Properties
2084 East Valley Road	1-4pm	\$7,150,000	5bd/5.5ba	Kathryn Sweeney	331-4100	Sun Coast Real Estate
747 San Ysidro Road	1-4pm	\$5,250,000	4bd/5.5ba	Arve Eng	698-2915	Sotheby's International Realty
1422 East Valley Road	By Appt.	\$5,100,000	6bd/5.5ba	Patricia Griffin	705-5133	Village Properties
1250 Pepper Lane	By Appt.	\$4,795,000	4bd/4ba	Maureen McDermut	969-9993	Sotheby's International Realty
700 Romero Canyon Road	1-4pm	\$4,350,000	4bd/5.5ba	Patrice Serrani	637-5112	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
425 Nicholas Lane	1-4pm	\$4,295,000	6bd/6ba	Amy J Baird	478-9318	Village Properties
1000 East Mountain Drive	12:30-4:30	\$4,250,000	4bd/3ba	Rebecca Fraser	570-7356	Marcel P. Fraser REALTORS
2332 Bella Vista Drive	1-4pm	\$3,995,000	3bd/4ba	Frank Abatemarco	450-7477	Sotheby's International Realty
595 Freehaven Drive	1-4pm	\$3,475,000	7bd/5.5ba	Ken Switzer	680-4622	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
540 El Bosque Road	1-4pm	\$2,950,000	4bd/4ba	Mark Lomas	845-2888	Sotheby's International Realty
754 Winding Creek Lane	1-3pm	\$2,895,000	4bd/3.5ba	Mary Whitney	689-0915	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
1382 Plaza Pacifica	By Appt.	\$2,700,000	2bd/3ba	Janice Laney	705-6474	Keller Williams Montecito
150 Olive Mill Lane	2-4pm	\$2,650,000	3bd/3.5ba	Sandy Stahl	689-1602	Sotheby's International Realty
751 Skyview Drive	2-4pm	\$2,199,000	4bd/2.5ba	Leanne Wood	284-7177	Village Properties
2049 Boundary Drive	By Appt.	\$2,150,000	Land	Patricia Griffin	705-5133	Village Properties
859 Summit Road	1-3pm	\$1,995,000	3bd/3ba	Eric Stockmann	895-0789	Coldwell Banker
1560 North Jameson	1-4pm	\$1,435,000	4bd/2ba	Andy Madrid	452-1456	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
1046 Fairway Road	2-4pm	\$950,000	2bd/2ba	Janice Laney	705-6474	Keller Williams Montecito
1032 Fairway Road	2-4pm	\$950,000	2bd/2ba	Bonnie Jo Danelly		

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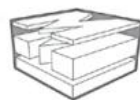
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